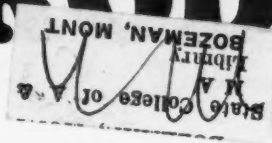


An. Hush

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL ORGAN



APRIL, 1938

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BOZEMAN

I SAY THE CHAIN STORES HAVE EARNED FARMERS' CONFIDENCE

—says Warren Tilton, Colorado poultryman

VISITING WITH FARMERS IN COLORADO

and all through the West, your Farm Reporter has asked questions and listened plenty. I've seen a lot of different crops growing—seen how methods change from section to section. And everywhere I've found a real interest in marketing—that's every farmer's problem.

In 17 years of egg and poultry production, Warren Tilton has had some marketing experience that might prove helpful to you. His 2000 registered Leghorns lay close to 400,000 eggs a year—and hatching production averages 100,000 chicks. Mr. Tilton is a director of the Colorado Poultry Improvement Association, active in the International Baby Chick Association—and a member of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

YOUR SAFEWAY FARM REPORTER



Record of Performance pedigreed cockerels—and constant flock culling—result in high egg production and well-bred baby chicks, Tilton says

IN THE KIND of times we've been going through, folks are mighty lucky to have chain stores like Safeway," Warren Tilton told me.

"The money-saving these stores give their customers—by straight-line distribution—is only part of their service. What's most important to farmers is the way the chains cooperate in selling farm products, always paying at least the going price.

"Just last November the chains did something big for us poultry farmers. An oversupply of eggs was making prices shaky. If stocks had continued to pile up in cold storage a good part of our year's profit would have been lost. But this didn't happen.

"Safeway and the other chains put on a Farmer-Consumer egg campaign. They advertised our eggs and moved a tremendous quantity. We farmers got the price stabilization we needed—and the public benefited, too.

"I understand Safeway has put on similar campaigns for other farm products. Cooperation like this can't help but make firm friends for the chains all through this Western farm country.

"Having supplied eggs to the Safeway people for about 15 years now, I know from experience that they are square in their dealings—and experts at selling what farmers produce. I say they have a right to farm folks' confidence."

THE SAFEWAY FARM REPORTER

FRANKLIN

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WITH HOMEBUILDER ON
HER FATHER'S S L W
RANCH, GREELEY, COLO.



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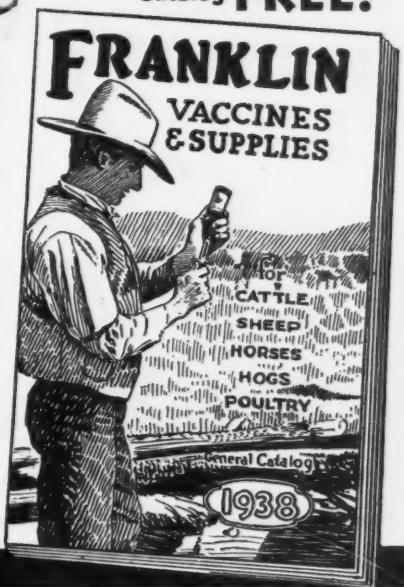
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LETTERS

GENEROUS RAINS

Although the season's rainfall for the California north coast section is now a total of from 85 to 140 inches for the winter, I should still like to have a copy of your booklet, "If and When It Rains." There is ample proof here that when rains are timely and the weather warm, the ranges will recover 100 per cent from an apparently hopeless condition brought on by drought (we do have droughts here, too), grass fires, freezing, and overgrazing.—D. T. BENNITT, Two Rock Ranch, Willits, Cal.

FINE SHAPE

With general rains over north Texas, Oklahoma, and extending into the Panhandle, ranges and grain are well advanced and in fine shape and stock is in good condition.—JIM KEITH, Wichita Falls, Texas.

WORTH \$2

I enjoy Mr. Poole's articles, so I am enclosing the \$1 for a year's subscription. It is worth \$2. We have just about passed through one of the finest winters I have experienced in 35 years. Live stock of all kinds wintered extra well. Cattle have been getting all the new grass they wanted the past three weeks. Lots of water has soaked in the land. Prospects are excellent for a good start in range feed, and land is in fine shape to put in forage crops.—LINN L. GIVLER, Boyes, Mont.

LATE

It is very late here in the valley, with a great deal of snow on the mountains. No grazing is expected for at least another month. Stock that I have seen so far has wintered very well. There are a few purebred Hereford and Short-horn raisers in the valley.—DR. G. G. MOTTELER, Colville, Wash.

EARLY START

We have had about two and one-half inches of moisture in this section in March. Grass is making the earliest start it has made in years. Probably a larger percentage of March lambs has been saved than usual.—HOWARD H. DODD, Crawford, Neb.

GOOD OUTLOOK

I read the PRODUCER regularly and enjoy it a great deal. It gives me a very good outlook on the sheep and cattle markets and splendid information on range conditions on the western range. —V. R. VAN DERVOORT, Ames, Ia.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XIX

APRIL, 1938

Number 11

IF AND WHEN IT RAINS

BY F. E. MOLLIN

(The booklet, "If and When It Rains—The Stockman's View of the Range Question," by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, is being reprinted in two parts. This is part two. Copies of the full illustrated booklet will be sent free upon request.)

AS EVIDENCE OF THE GREAT recuperative powers of the western ranges, the range condition figure for December, 1937, might be quoted. The report shows an average condition for the 17 western states of 76, compared with 71 a year ago and 77.3 for the 10-year average. This despite the fact that droughty conditions were quite general in 1936 and prevailed during 1937 in parts of this region.

The following comments from prominent educators in western colleges speak for themselves:

H. J. Gramlich, chairman, Department of Animal Husbandry, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska—

"There is no question in my mind but that most of the grass problems existing in the hard land area of eastern Nebraska are direct results of lack of rainfall during the past four years. Many pastures which have been used rather lightly show the effects of these conditions. Dead trees on all farmsteads throughout this area are another proof of what is wrong. It would seem as though a return to normal rainfall would justify putting into effect many of the practices recommended by the soil conservation people. Possibly with a policy of this kind in effect we will be in better shape to meet the next series of drought years when it strikes us."

E. F. Rinehart, extension animal husbandman, University of Idaho—

"Judging from the live stock that

come in from the summer ranges, we are inclined to believe that where the live stock is properly supervised and managed the ranges are tending to improve rather than deteriorate. While it is possible to find glaring examples of overgrazing, in practically all cases this is due to use by temporary users who have

but little interest in the permanency of the range.

"Three years ago we had drought conditions where much of the feed never came up. We could ride over the ranges and even some of us old-timers thought that the range had passed forever. The next year there was an abundance of rain and the same areas that had been a desert the previous year were waving in grass and feed. There was far more feed than could be consumed.

"One large range area from which much drought-stricken stock had to be taken and sold to the government in 1934 was passed on and declared to be



Photo by Russell Thorp, Cheyenne, Wyo.

EFFECT OF DROUGHT on a range near Cheyenne, Wyoming



Photo by Russell Thorp.

THE SAME RANGE IN 1937. Rain brought the grass back.

April, 1938



Photo by U. S. Geological Survey

PHOTO OF HAYDEN EXPEDITION, 1870, near Chugwater, Wyoming. "Today sagebrush covers the area," says the report of the Great Plains Committee—an erroneous statement, as the below picture shows.



THE SAME SCENE IN 1937. What is referred to as sagebrush is instead mostly Russian thistle, mute testimony of a homesteader's mistaken attempt to cultivate a few acres.



Photo by Ezra Baer, Meeker, Colo.

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO, AUTUMN, 1935.

overstocked. I was over this range area in 1936-37. There was so much feed that all the cattle were close around the camp and the horses were seldom used. It was time to leave the early ranges and go to the forests, but everyone was wondering whether or not to go on and leave such good feed."

R. G. Johnson, professor of animal husbandry, Oregon State Agricultural College—

"Our grass, taken as a whole, in Oregon is comparatively quite excellent. This holds especially true on the high desert in Harney, Lake, Malheur, Deschutes, and Crook counties. This country looked like a barren waste in 1934-35, while this year grass apparently has sprung from nothing. This country last year had pretty fair moisture and apparently got some rejuvenation of the dormant grasses, and this year they blossomed forth in full glory. . . ."

Little Change in Vegetation

A. F. Vass, head, Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Economics, University of Wyoming—

"Many of the ranges which have been reported to have been ruined by overgrazing have later been found to be back to normal following a season of favorable rainfall. The "overgrazed" condition that one often hears reported is due to drought, and the range is readily brought back to normal by a year or two of favorable precipitation.

"Careful investigation of the forage and carrying capacity indicate that the vegetation on the privately owned grazing lands, national forests, and unappropriated lands in Wyoming have undergone very little change during the last 40 years.

"The forage plants growing on our western ranges are the result of thousands of years of elimination and adaptation, having been grazed by animal life for long periods, and are not easily improved upon or destroyed by man within a few years' time."

In view of the foregoing, it seems evident that the lack of normal rainfall, coupled in many cases with mean temperatures higher than normal, has been the major cause of range deterioration. There have been other local or minor factors involved; but the remarkable comeback wherever normal rainfall conditions have obtained for a year or two is the best proof possible as to cause and effect.

Is the Range Deteriorating?

It has been the repeated charge, accepted by all careless thinkers, that the range has been continuously overgrazed and that there has been constant deterioration. The figures given in Senate Document 199, giving in percentages the extent to which it is estimated the various types of ranges have been depleted, are based on an impossible premise. They show that the average forage depletion on land under all types of ownerships is 52 per cent.

Having thus set up an exaggerated picture of the conditions, the document

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

goes one step farther. In the chapter devoted to submarginal lands, this remarkable suggestion is made:

"Undoubtedly it would be to the advantage of owners and the public if most of these low-value lands could be given outright to public agencies qualified to administer them in the public interest."

But there are still many old-fashioned people in the country who believe that private management and private ownership, whenever possible, are better than any kind of government control, no matter how efficient it may be.

Undergrazing Not Always Blessing

There is considerable authority for the belief that constant undergrazing is not by any means an unmixed blessing and that there are times when moderate heavy grazing is actually beneficial. A persistent policy of undergrazing would seem in many areas to favor the development of the coarser and less palatable grasses at the expense of the finer and more palatable grasses, such as grama, buffalo, and mesquite. In other areas uncontrolled brush growth becomes a serious factor.

The following pertinent quotations are taken from the summary in Technical Bulletin No. 549 of the Department of Agriculture, entitled "Drought Survival of Native Grass Species in the Central and Southern Great Plains, 1935."

"The grass cover on closely clipped areas was consistently better than on lightly clipped areas in all comparisons at Hays, Kansas, and Dalhart, Texas.

"As grazing was intensified, the actual cover of buffalo grass declined in all areas where the drought was severe; however, the relative proportion of ground cover represented by buffalo grass increased with each successive increase in the degree of grazing.

"Although much of the grass is dead, the surviving plants are rather uniformly distributed and may be expected to recover rapidly under favorable climatic conditions."

From *The Forage of the Red Desert*, a study of forage conditions in 1897 and 1936, by Dr. Avon Nelson, professor of botany, University of Wyoming, we quote:

"The inquiry started merely to answer the question, Is the desert deteriorating in its forage value? The question has been answered by saying, No, it is at least holding its own. The fluctuations in its forage content are brought about by the various climatic conditions of the successive years."

A. B. Conner, director, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas, states:

"My general conclusion is that perhaps a large portion of Texas was originally covered with bunch grasses, chiefly *Andropogon*, and that subsequently, with heavier stocking, they have been replaced by the short grasses such as buffalo and mesquite."

R. L. Hensel, agronomist in pasture investigations, Texas Agricultural Ex-



Photo by U. S. Geological Survey

HAYDEN EXPEDITION CAMP, 1870, near Casper Mountain, Wyoming. The report of the Great Plains Committee states: "None of the present day cover of sagebrush is to be seen."



THE SAME SCENE, IN 1937. Not sagebrush, but an irrigated and cultivated valley.



Forest Service Photo

CATTLE GRAZING on Seven Mile Creek, Fish Lake National Forest in autumn of 1930. Forage was seriously damaged by drought in 1933, 1934, and 1935. Normal or better precipitation has prevailed the last three seasons, and forage is now much better than when this picture was taken.

periment Station, College Station, Texas, has this to say:

"From what I have been able to observe in the central and western portions of the state, it seems as though the tall grasses were the original dominants and that the short grasses gained the upper hand when grazing and farming practices became more intensive."

We also quote Julian L. Bivins, of

Amarillo, Texas, who has this to say:

"The abuse of our pastures has been greatly overrated by government men. Most everyone here knows of some pasture that has been badly overstocked for the last five years but is now in much better condition than other pastures that have been lightly stocked. . . . I do not know of any case of overgrazing in this area that has hurt the pastures. . . .

"I have in mind a pasture about 30 miles north of Amarillo that has been consistently overgrazed for the last 15 years, but it is in a spot that seems to get more than average rains. The pastures adjoining this particular ranch have not been overstocked, and one can plainly see along the fence lines that in the overgrazed pasture the choice mesquite and grama grass has taken a lot of the ground formerly covered by weeds and red grass."

C. J. Abbott, Hyannis, Nebraska, writes:

"In my opinion, heavy grazing improves both the quality and the palatability of grass during years of fairly normal rainfall. Every cattleman knows that the best beef pasture is one which has been heavily grazed the year before but is lightly stocked by the fattening herd. Drought seems to destroy the coarser grasses more effectively than heavy grazing. I would not be surprised to find that upon the return of normal rainfall to the sand hills area that our ranges would have both greater carrying capacity and greater fattening qualities than they have ever had."

R. C. Rich, of Burley, Idaho, president, National Wool Growers' Association, comments as below:

"I am of the opinion that one can best size up the conditions of western ranges by comparing present with past conditions. We have used one particular allotment on the Caribou National Forest in eastern Idaho for more than 20 years, and our old herders, the foreman, and I are agreed that this range was as good this last season as at any time in our experience with it."

T. C. Bacon, of Twin Falls, Idaho, writes:

"About three years ago we had an unusually wet season for Idaho. This had been preceded by a series of very dry years and poor range conditions. That year our feed was abundant, and Idaho shipped the heaviest lambs of which we have any record. One good season, and our ranges were back to normal, which points to the fact that weather is the biggest factor in any range control or management."

In an interview given in Denver by Commissioner Fred W. Johnson, of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1937, the statement is made that "western grazing lands, particularly in Wyoming, are in the best condition in years." While Mr. Johnson went on to say that the "government's new policy of grazing management and control of public lands is proving a complete success," it must be apparent to anyone that the improved conditions in 1937 were due to rain and not to the Taylor Grazing Act, which is just getting its machinery under way to give permittees protection as to numbers grazed upon the public domain.

More Desirable Types

In connection with the foregoing and in further corroboration of the statements made as to changes in types of

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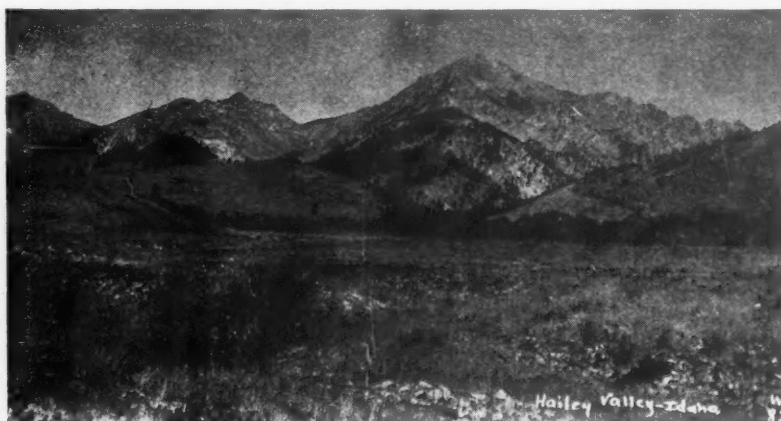


DEER IN LOW BRUSH country near Boise, Idaho. Sportsmen were contending at the time this picture was taken, in the spring of 1937, that deer were starving to death—hardly a plausible contention.



Forest Service Photo

THIS IS THE WAY THE DEER NIP OFF THE CONIFERS. Picture taken on the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona and southern Utah in 1931.



PRIVATE RANGE LANDS in Hailey Valley, Idaho. Picture was taken in spring of 1937. These lands have been grazed since the sixties.

grasses and increased carrying capacity resulting therefrom, attention might be called to the fact that the substitution of grama grasses and, to a lesser extent, of buffalo grass and curly mesquite grass for the taller grasses has taken place over a widespread area. Some authorities claim that there is no area in which grama grass was the original dominant, but practically all authorities agree that as these shorter grasses have replaced the taller and coarser grasses the carrying capacity of the land has increased. This change has been brought about largely by grazing. It might be said that from the standpoint of the taller grasses the lands were being overgrazed; but the stockman thinks about the subject in terms of meat production. If, as a replacement for the taller grasses resulting from that special type of "overgrazing," there comes in a grass which will produce more pounds of beef and lamb per acre, he does not mourn the crowding out of the less desirable type.

It seems unfortunate that the great hue and cry about erosion and overgrazing has been brought to its present pitch during one of the most severe droughts ever recorded in the country, but it was this drought condition which made the hue and cry possible. Of course, ranges are overstocked when normal numbers are placed thereon and rain refuses to come. Live-stock producers meet this situation as best they can, but it is patent to anyone familiar with the business that full adjustments cannot be made immediately if a serious drought condition suddenly develops. It takes time to find new locations, to ship in feed, or to plan market shipments. Naturally, such adjustments follow by some weeks or months the gradual development of a drought phase, and in the meantime apparent overstocking is unavoidable. Understocked pastures are overgrazed if the grass does not grow.

This question of overstocking or overgrazing is of especial importance today when the soil conservation program of the AAA is being planned on the basis

of surveys made largely by forest rangers. Check is also being made of range carrying capacity by the Taylor act administrators. If these appraisals are made on a drought basis, it will mean an unnecessarily heavy liquidation of live stock, serious loss to the productive capacity of the western states, and no benefit to anyone.

Use of Public Lands

In some quarters, even the right to use the public domain at all has been questioned. Undoubtedly the exaggerated claims of overgrazing have fixed attention on the whole subject. Uninformed individuals and organizations in sections other than in the West, with no understanding of the close relationship of the live-stock industry and the local governments in the public range states, have complained of the competition of live stock grown thereon. Those who advocate the use of such lands for nothing but the propagation of wild life have likewise taken advantage of the attack made against the present use of these lands.

It is a common error to assume that there is practically no cost involved in running live stock upon public lands. Those who fall into that error do not understand that the taxes assessed against the properties of live-stock owners who use public lands recognize the use thereof and that in many states with large areas of such lands the live-stock industry is the main support of local, county, school, and state governments; nor do they understand that the return from the use of such lands now regulated by arbitrary control is in no way comparable with the return from similar privately owned or leased lands. At any rate, there is no monopoly on the public domain. There are plenty of ranches for sale in areas where public lands furnish much of the grazing to give anyone who wishes a try at it a chance. It is unthinkable, however, that just because large areas have been retained under government ownership no practical use should be made of the lands.

Wild Life Protected

The controversy about wild life is one of long standing. Even so, it will surprise many to read the following from the report of the Texas Fish Commission for the year 1884:

"At one time in the early days, Texas furnished without cost an abundance of fish and game. The streams abounded with the choicest varieties of the finny tribe, and the prairies and motts of timber with buffalo, deer, antelope, etc., while the lakes and ponds here and there were covered with geese, ducks, and other waterfowl. But now all is changed. The sportsman is poorly rewarded for his long tramps over hill and prairie, and the fisherman returns from the rivers with a feeling of disappointment and disgust."

It is interesting to note that this report was written before western Texas

was stocked with cattle, so there is prima facie evidence that the stockman was not responsible for the condition complained of, as has so often since been charged. Instead, individually and in co-operation with others, he has more than held his own in the protection of wild life on the areas under his control.

During the past few years there has been a great deal of activity in the way

(Continued on page 20)

FROM THE PEN OF JIM POOLE

LIVE-STOCK MARKETS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE to sinking spells. A slight advance develops bear attacks.

During the last half of March all the previous advance in cattle prices was eliminated. Weight and quality is of scant advantage to a steer at the market. Killers are able to buy long-fed cattle weighing 1,200 pounds up at \$9 to \$9.75; choice bullocks are well sold at \$10.

Demand for cheaper grades of beef is moving common steers selling from \$7.25 down. Advent of the grass season may change this condition, but for the present "something cheap" is the popular demand in killing and beef dispensing circles.

Hogs are seeking lower levels. A generous June sow run is on the horizon, and packers will save money if possible. Prices have declined \$1 per cwt. since the February high spot and are on soft footing at the new basis. Packers have succeeded in forcing drove cost well below \$9 per cwt.

Live mutton prices will continue erratic, varying 50 cents per cwt. or more in a few days, thereby reflecting unstable dressed trade conditions.

Wool market is at a standstill. Government financial relief in the shape of a non-recourse loan saved the sheepman at a critical moment by furnishing money for shearing operations and other current expenses.

Hide trade still endeavoring to find a trading basis. Undertone weak.



UNCERTAINTY BECLOUDS LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

ACCUMULATING UNCERTAINTY beclouds the entire live-stock industry. Pessimism has developed as prices slumped. Obviously the consumers' capacity has been taxed. Problems not susceptible of clarification confront every arm of the trade. Repetition of 1937 values may never be possible. At the moment processors are devoting strenuous effort, not to prevent further appreciation, but force cost of their raw material to still lower levels. The outcome depends on industrial and general trade conditions, rather than live-stock supply, which will be adequate unless all the surface indications are awry.

More Substantial Basis

Vestiges of the somewhat reckless speculation of last year will soon disappear as feeders begin liquidation of a more recently purchased set of steers and the winter-fed lamb supply disappears. Consensus of trade is that:

Cattle trade is working on a more substantial basis at possibly lower levels. The outcome will be determined by summer and fall physical conditions both in the farming and grazing sections.

An excessive estimate on the number of fat steers that went to feed-lots last fall is becoming obvious. Slaughter is running right around the same volume as last year, when prices were considerably higher.

Restoration of tranquility in disturbed industrial circles is desirable. Sporadic strikes, usually accompanied by violence, restrict meat consumption.

Meat imports have been sharply curtailed, which will have a tendency to absorb a larger poundage of domestic product.

War rumors do not deserve credence, the evident intention of European democracies and dictators being to avoid hostilities.

Prices of all live stock and meats will be determined by domestic, industrial, and financial conditions.

Potential Demand Broad

Potential demand for meat is broad; probable supply not excessive.

Processing taxes either on live stock or meats are improbable. Indirectly live stock could be taxed through corn, which looks reasonable.

A rise of grass will create broad demand for stock cattle; another full corn crop, always possible, means early stocker demand, although the course of fat-cattle demand meanwhile will be a strong factor.

As the summer works along finished steers will be less conspicuous at the market. The in-and-out element has closely cashed its holdings, putting the

supply in the hands of regulars who are in a position to string it out. This will exert a healthy influence, and as each week passes visible supply will be more strongly held.

Already distress cattle selling by feeders has ceased, a condition having developed where breaks will check, advances swell, the movement.

Wider cattle price spreads will be seasonal. Trash has had its usual spring inning, and as grass becomes available merit will get a more substantial reward.

Abundant pasture means a continued broad outlet for stock cattle. No surplus supply is in evidence anywhere. Spring buying may subside, but as feed supply increases more cattle will be needed. The commercial breeder is in strong strategic position.

Cattle purchase loans are still popular, although an understanding exists that recent inflation has permanently disappeared.

Swine Production Increasing

Material increase in swine production over a spreading area insures rehabilitation of the industry and, incidentally, increase in meat supply.

Processing tax threats are heard in Washington, but when and if Congress adopts that policy live stock will be affected only as it reflects feed cost. Taxes on cotton, probably including by-products, and on corn could operate detrimentally to feeders. Only when abundance of feed develops will a production restriction policy be adopted. Anyhow the possibility of direct taxes on live stock is remote.

A tax on corn, which is the proposition, would affect not only live stock, but every distribution source. The resultant effect on cattle, hogs, and sheep would not be serious increase in cost of production.

Prospects are for a fat-cattle market all through the summer period at prices not far from the present trading basis. Few fat bullocks will sell over \$10; on the low side \$8 is the expectation. In the event that the major branches of the market take this course feeders will do their charting on the same basis.

Grass cattle are scheduled for a healthy summer and fall market as feeders are on the alert for stockers. In any event the country will get few fleshy western steers, as, with cheap corn, the country will compete on qualified yearlings and two-year-olds.

The new AAA, even if put into operation, will not necessitate curtailment of cattle feeding, although it may handicap commercial feeders under the

necessity of purchasing the bulk of their feed.

Ample additional supplies of grain and roughage can be furnished by resorting to substitutes. However, the AAA people will be in position to stabilize the price of corn by the loan expedient.

Imports Lower

Meat imports are being reduced. Efforts to increase the duty on canned meats by 6 cents per pound will fail, as it would interfere with consummation of pending reciprocity agreements, most of which will involve reduced charges on all agricultural products.

Consumer purchasing capacity will be broad enough to prevent bargain sales of any kind of meat. After a down-trend period live-stock prices will promptly react. Processors intimate that they can pay anywhere from \$8 to \$9.50 per cwt. all through the season for cornfed steers, but will balk at paying in excess of that basis.

Nothing is definitely known or can be known regarding the supply of fat cattle during the next six months. Presumably winter slaughter has reduced the aggregate to a volume at least not in excess of consumer requirements. However, whenever prices work 50 cents to \$1 higher than the current basis adjustment will be in evidence. Distributive trade can absorb the carcasses of few steers selling above \$10.50 per cwt.

The crop of western calves that went into feeders' hands last fall has wintered well, made rapid gains, and will go to the butcher earlier than usual. Present expectancy is that these light cattle will realize \$8.50 to \$9.75 per cwt., according to finish and weight.

Early Grass Stuff Welcome

Early grass cattle, steers, cows, and heifers, will be welcome and realize the highest prices of the season. Unless drought develops in the Corn Belt and eastern country, demand for anything capable of converting grass will develop early. Feeders are now paying \$6.75 to \$8 for light stock cattle; \$8.25 to \$8.50 for calves. Substantial prices will be necessary to jar light cattle loose from growers' hands, especially if the West gets ample feed.

Eastern feeders, now cashing their winter crop of fed steers, are already concerned about their purchase next fall. A shortage of young steers in the Northwest will curtail supply from that quarter. Several droves of Alberta yearlings are being moved into Montana to summer graze and go to feed-lots next fall. Alberta breeders have been active at Washington, endeavoring to secure tariff concessions under the new treaty.

A 25 per cent estimated increase in the spring pig crop will relieve scarcity. Pigs came early and have thrived since, growers intending to make the Sep-

tember market before prices break. Probably the high point of the year was uncovered in the hog market during March, although a seasonal advance may be expected in August. In any event, the country will expand pork production, possibly creating an excess, with no apparent outlet as export volume is still restricted.

Colorado and Nebraska have practically liquidated an unprofitable winter-fed lamb crop. California found an early Pacific coast market for its output, but a movement eastward from that area impends. Initial trading in California lambs for local slaughter was on an 8½- to 9-cent basis. Southwestern lambs from Kentucky and Tennessee will move eastward two weeks in advance of the usual time, insuring a continuous abundant supply.

ANLSA OPPOSES ADDED CANADIAN DUTY CUTS*

AN ESTABLISHED POLICY OF THE American National Live Stock Association is given in the following resolution adopted at the 41st annual convention of the Association, held at Cheyenne, Wyoming, January 13-15, 1938:

"Recent announcement of reopening the Canadian reciprocal trade agreement and of negotiating a trade agreement with Great Britain (possibly including certain colonies prominent in live-stock production) is a distinct threat to our industry. We urge that there be no further reductions in tariff duties on live stock or live-stock products, nor any increase in existing cattle quotas. We further urge, on account of the serious situation confronting all live-stock feeders today, that immediate steps be taken so to spread the receipts from Canada under the quota for 1938 as to have as little effect as possible on our market."

The above resolution is entirely in keeping with the historical policy of the association relative to tariffs. This policy is and has always been based upon recognition of the fact that live-stock producers in this country, with their present burden of taxes of various kinds and present standards of wages and living, cannot compete on equal terms with the cattle growers of our neighboring republics, Canada and Mexico, where all operating costs are very much lower, nor with the meat producers of South America, Australia, or New Zealand, whose low costs of production would enable them to compete in the American market despite long water hauls were it not for reasonable tariff protection. The fact that there have been substantial imports of live cattle, canned meat, and other meat products since the passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in 1930 is the best

evidence needed as to the truth of the above statements.

There was a meeting in Chicago last December of two committees of cattle-men, one representing American producers and the other Canadian producers, which may have been called to the attention of the Committee for Reciprocity Information. Printed statements have been sent to this country, issued by the Canadian Packers, Limited, at Toronto, Canada, from which the following quotation is taken referring to the above meeting.

"American cattle producers have accepted the Canadian-American agreement in a very good spirit. It is true, they lodged protest against the agreement at the time it was made, but since then conversations have taken place between the two committees, one representing American producers and the other Canadian producers. The American group has asked chiefly that shipments of Canadian cattle should in some way be regulated."

It is apparent that this reference is used in a fashion to indicate a weakening on the part of American cattle producers in opposition to imports from Canada. The Chicago meeting was called for the specific purpose of discussing monthly quotas for the handling of Canadian shipments under the present agreement, and naturally the American producers at that meeting "asked chiefly" for some regulation of these shipments. That was the sole purpose of the meet-

ing. It was not called to discuss the question of policy, and any inference that the American producers had weakened on policy is entirely unwarranted and, in fact, unfair.

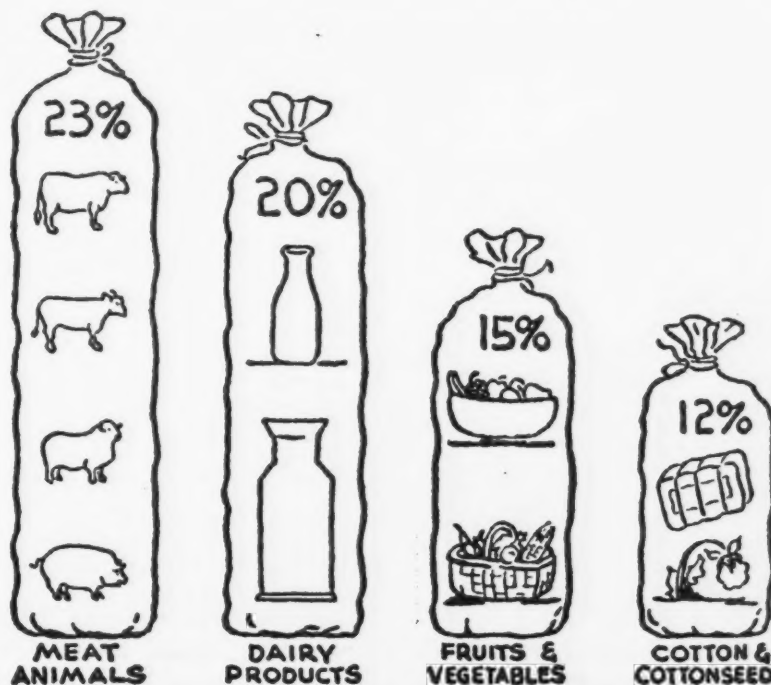
Importance of Industry

The following illustration, taken from records of the Department of Agriculture, shows that for the five years, 1932 to 1936, 23 per cent of the farm income in this country came from meat animals, with an additional 20 per cent from dairy products. Almost 5,500,000 farms, out of a national total of nearly 7,000,000, were reported by the census as having some cattle, with approximately 1,500,000 farms and ranches producing beef cattle. The West and Southwest are the principal breeding grounds. From the ranges of that territory feeder live stock is moved to the Corn Belt for finishing en route to market.

Cattle numbers and farm value as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are as below:

	Cattle and Calves		
	(000)		(000)
1930	61,003	\$56.36	\$3,438,056
1931	63,030	38.99	2,457,499
1932	65,770	26.40	1,736,015
1933	70,214	19.74	1,386,107
1934	74,262	17.78	1,320,340
1935	68,529	20.22	1,385,948
1936	67,929	34.09	2,315,847
1937	66,448	34.07	2,264,168
1938	65,930	36.64	2,415,690

Principal Sources of Farm Income FIVE YEAR AVERAGE 1932-36



Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

* Brief submitted to the Committee for Reciprocity Information of the United States Tariff Commission, by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

Cows and Heifers two years old and over,
kept for milk*

	(000)	\$	(000)
1930	23,032	\$82.70	\$1,904,794
1931	23,820	57.03	1,358,529
1932	24,896	39.51	983,671
1933	25,936	29.18	756,846
1934	26,931	27.00	727,039
1935	26,069	30.17	786,612
1936	25,439	49.27	1,253,427
1937	24,991	50.39	1,259,207
1938	24,902	54.45	1,355,926

* Included in "Cattle and Calves."

The difference between the totals shown for "Cattle and Calves" and those shown for "Cows and Heifers Kept for Milk" would show the cattle kept mainly for beef purposes and the value thereof.

Special attention is called to the fact that the cattle population on January 1, 1938, is slightly in excess of that shown on January 1, 1932, which was before the drought of 1934 and the heavy purchases made at that time by the federal government. The supply is ample for all domestic requirements even under normal conditions. The present market situation indicates that it is more than ample with the large number of people now unemployed.

Attention should be called to the fact that the situation which arose in the fall of 1937, when extreme top prices for a few long-finished cattle were far out of line, was in no way due to a shortage of cattle. It was entirely due to the drought of 1936—the very short feed

crops produced that year—and the resultant high prices for all feed grains which caused a sharp curtailment of feeding operations. There was a shortage of feed with which to make cattle fat, but there was no shortage of cattle.

Protest Further Duty Reductions

The tariff on cattle and on cattle products was established for the purpose of protecting American producers from ruinous competition from low-cost producing countries. Any further reductions in those tariffs or any further broadening of the quotas would permit foreign products to enter our markets in increasing volume and to continue such access to our markets at lower price levels than present tariffs now permit. The weighted average price of all grades of beef steers sold at Chicago out of first hands for slaughter for the week ended February 19, 1938, was \$7.72 per 100 pounds. Six months ago, for the week ended August 7, 1937, the price was \$13.92 per 100. A year ago, for the week ended February 20, 1937, the price was \$10.18 per 100.

We therefore respectfully but earnestly protest against any further reductions in duty or any new or enlarged quotas on cattle or cattle products. They would also be contrary to the entire program of the AAA, which has for its objective reducing production in this country in order to advance prices to parity. This cannot be done if the Amer-

ican market is not preserved for the American producer to the full extent of his ability to supply it.

The announcement of plan to negotiate lists each weight division separately:

"Calves weighing less than 175 pounds each, on which present quota is 51,933 head.

"Cattle weighing between 175 and 700 pounds, on which there is now no quota.

"Cows weighing more than 700 pounds, imported especially for dairy purposes, on which present quota is 20,000 head.

"And other cattle weighing more than 700 pounds, on which the present quota is 155,799 head."

The statement issued by the Canada Packers, Limited, mentioned above, referring to the operation of the quota arrangement in 1937, has this to say:

"The quota was filled in August, but by that time Canada's surplus of fed cattle had all been moved. The effect of the agreement was that so long as the quota lasted Canadian producers received an extra cent per pound, approximately \$10 per head, not only for the cattle exported, but for all the cattle marketed in Canada."

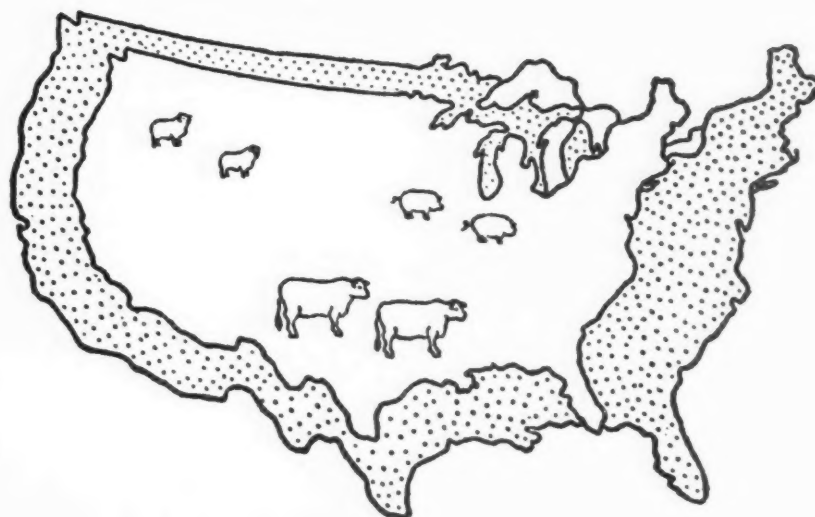
In view of that statement, there seems no basis on which to justify any increase in the present quotas. The main benefit to Canada comes not in the price received for its surplus, unloaded on American markets, but in the support given to home markets by the removal of the surplus.

The reverse of this situation is true in the United States. It has long been urged by the State Department that the quotas granted under the original Canadian agreement could have no substantial effect upon the American market because of their smallness in relation to the total American slaughter. It is not the percentage of the total slaughter that matters; it is the surplus alone. And, for the same reason that Canada finds it advantageous to remove its surplus, Americans find it disadvantageous to add even relatively small numbers when conditions are such in the United States that domestic supplies cannot be absorbed at satisfactory prices.

The correctness of this analysis of the situation was repeatedly demonstrated at St. Paul in the spring of 1936, when on numerous occasions from 50 to 125 loads of Canadian cattle arrived on that market and in each instance caused a substantial break in the market. Due to the peculiar system obtaining in this country wherein the same packers operate on all the big central markets, such increase in receipts at one point with resultant break in price is immediately wired to every other central market for the purpose of affecting trading all the way around. Consequently, a shipment of 100 loads of Canadian cattle on one market on any given day has an effect on American prices out of all proportion to the actual number involved.

The old tariff rates before the original

Farm Land Devoted to the Production of Livestock and Grains Fed Extensively to Livestock



More than two-thirds of all farm land in the United States is devoted either to the production of livestock or to the production of grain fed extensively to livestock.

agreement was negotiated did not exclude imports. The following table shows the total imports of live cattle from 1931 to 1937 (for fiscal years ended June 30):

1931	82,000
1932	103,000
1933	100,000
1934	69,000
1935	244,000
1936	433,000
1937	440,000

Special attention is called to the substantial imports for the fiscal year 1935, just prior to the enactment of the original Canadian agreement. This table shows the satisfactory working of the original tariff. It protected our markets when prices were low during the years of depression. It permitted imports in reasonable volume when prices reached a more satisfactory level.

Special protest is lodged against the granting of a quota on the class of cattle weighing from 175 to 700 pounds, not covered in the original agreement. Canada is not the principal exporter of this class of cattle. The following table shows the imports by weight divisions from Canada and Mexico for 1936 and 1937:

CANADA (Other than breeding)

	Over 700 lbs.	175-700 lbs.	Under 175 lbs.
1937	6,724	157,468	50,355
1936	6,686	136,533	35,149

MEXICO

	Over 700 lbs.	175-700 lbs.	Under 175 lbs.
1937	24,792	172,717	1,259
1936	21,992	140,439	1,615

Any concession in duty granted Canada on this class of cattle will be of small benefit to that country, while the major benefit will go to Mexico, which exported as shown above during the operation of the present agreement three to four times as many cattle of that weight division as came from Canada. This is brought about through the policy of generalizing all benefits to the world at large, with the single exception of Germany. This policy of generalized benefits would work to the special advantage of Mexico in this instance, despite the fact that it has recently sharply increased its tariffs on numerous imports from the United States.

It would be distinctly unfair to American producers to subject them to added competition at lower price levels through the granting of a concession on this weight division. The full impact of the blow would be felt in the states bordering Mexico—California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. As explained, increased imports of this class of cattle at lower price levels would necessarily affect the entire price level, not only in the four states mentioned but to a lesser degree in all the other cattle producing states.

We print several tables, all of which

bear on this subject. The first shows imports into the United States of beef and veal, fresh, chilled, or frozen, from various countries during 1934 to 1937. We are advised by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that the imports from Canada were of the fresh or refrigerated variety, while the bulk if not all of the imports from Australia and New Zealand were frozen.

Imports of beef and veal, fresh, chilled, or frozen, in 1934-1937 (dutiable, 000 omitted):

	1934	1935
Canada	76	4,378
Australia	8	174
New Zealand	20	2,259
Cuba	*	82
Japan	†	†
Irish Free State	*	3
Others	*	*
Total	105	6,899
	1936	1937
Canada	891	2,246
Australia	96	40
New Zealand	1,091	750
Cuba	8	227
Japan	†	*
Irish Free State	*	*
Others	†	49
Total	2,088	3,314

(Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.)
*None.
†Less than 1,000 pounds.

Inspected and total slaughter of cattle, including calves, in Canada, for 1930 to 1937 (000 omitted):

	Inspected Cattle	Slaughter Calves	Total
1930	602	376	978
1931	592	371	963
1932	553	384	937
1933	654	438	1,092
1934	804	543	1,347
1935	790	587	1,377
1936	920	603	1,523
1937	924	702	1,626

(Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled as follows: Inspected Slaughter December issues Monthly Live Stock and Meat Trade Review, Live Stock Branch Dominion of Canada Dept. of Agriculture. Total Slaughter—Live Stock and Animal Products Statistics published annually by the Agricultural Branch Dominion Bureau of Statistics.)

Annual slaughter of cattle, including calves, in Australia for 1930 to 1936 and January-November, 1936 and 1937 (1,000 head):

	Slaughter for Export	Total Slaughter
1930	429	1,787
1931	425	1,751
1932	397	1,944
1933	527	2,205
1934	646	2,713
1935	853	3,058
1936	1,184
Jan.-Nov.	1,117
1937	1,486

(Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled as follows: Slaughter for Export—Mimeographed monthly sheets entitled Stock Submitted for Slaughter and Inspection for Export. Department of Commerce, Australia. Total Slaughter—Production Bulletin—Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.)

Total slaughter of cattle, including calves, in New Zealand, for 1930 to 1935 (1,000 head):

	Total Slaughter
1930	878
1931	916
1932	993
1933	1,417
1934	1,265
1935	1,663

(Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Total Slaughter—New Zealand Official Yearbook.)

The above tables clearly show the menace, not only to the cattle industry, but to the entire meat industry of the United States, if there is any break in the tariff rate on dressed beef and veal. True, the imports from Canada in recent years have been nominal, although you will note that there has been a substantial increase each year in the table shown. Whether or not ships are today available to bring chilled beef into the United States from Australia and New Zealand, without doubt they soon would be available if our market were opened up to those countries. Any reduction in the tariff on this item means a further sharing of our already overcrowded markets with foreign low-cost producers. It means a further importation of a finished product and a consequent further reduction in the use of domestically produced feed grains and farm and ranch labor.

More than two-thirds of all farm land in the United States is devoted either to the production of live stock or to the production of grain fed extensively to live stock.

Attention has been called to the AAA program which is bound to cause substantial shifts in production in this country. Announcement has already been made that reductions of major crops for 1938 will range somewhere between 15,000,000 and 30,000,000 acres. This would involve between 5 and 10 per cent of the total acreage planted to these major crops in 1937. This in addition to substantial reductions already made.

The live-stock industry is confronted with the threat of greatly increased domestic competition due to this program and to the failure of Congress to prevent such increased competition by restrictions in the farm bill just passed. The amendment to that bill, known as the McNary-Boileau amendment, which would have prevented the use of acres taken out of production of major farm crops for the production of live stock or live-stock products was so emasculated by the Conference Committee as to render it wholly ineffective so far as beef cattle or sheep are concerned.

With prices already at disastrously low levels, it is clear that no further foreign competition can be met.

Importance Monthly Quotas

We urge that the present quotas be rearranged so that there is monthly con-

trol instead of yearly control. This would be for the benefit of Canadian producers as well as American producers. Attention has already been called to the situation which developed in 1936 when more than 55 per cent of the quota of cattle weighing more than 700 pounds was received in this country in April, May, and June. In 1937 our market was high enough and the distribution was such that we could absorb the Canadian imports in better fashion.

Today again the situation is much more dangerous. According to all reports, there is a sharp increase in the number of cattle on feed in eastern Canada. The United States market, depressed by slack demand due to the large number of people unemployed, is on such a low level that the Canadian cattle are not moving into this country in any volume. An advance of 50 to 75 cents per 100 pounds would start them, and unless some monthly check is established there will again be an immediate break which would be disastrous alike to American and Canadian producers.

Conclusion

1. The present duties on cattle and cattle products, already modified by the original trade agreement with Canada, are insufficient adequately to protect American cattle producers. Importations of cattle and cattle products all reduced to a dressed weight basis, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, for 1937 totaled 336,366,000 pounds, far exceeding such imports for any other year since 1930, when the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act went into effect.

2. It has been found extremely difficult in the live-stock industry, with business conditions constantly fluctuating, to adjust supply to the current demand. Live-stock "factories" cannot be shut down and their employees dismissed when the demand for their product lessens. The tariff has acted to a certain degree as a shock absorber and has lessened the imports when markets were low and increased them when markets were high, thus tending to level receipts from year to year. To the extent that the tariff is lowered permitting imports under any and all conditions this stabilizing factor is removed.

3. Current demand is insufficient to absorb relatively moderate offerings except at ruinous prices. Cattle feeders are losing millions of dollars on the season's operations and this loss will be reflected in the shape of lessened demand and lower prices to range producers next summer and fall.

4. Under the conditions outlined above any lowering of the tariff with the increased importations resulting therefrom will have an effect on the values of live stock in this country out of all proportion to the actual numbers involved.

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR APPROVES RANGE CODE

NEW FEDERAL RANGE REGULATIONS affecting 120,000,000 acres of federal grazing land, were approved March 16 by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Providing for the grazing of 10,000,000 head of live stock on the federal range on a term permit basis, the new regulations will be put into effect as rapidly as possible in 10 states upon grazing districts already established under the terms of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Plans of the Division of Grazing contemplate early installation of the term permit system in Colorado Grazing District No. 6. Within a year, Director F. R. Carpenter said, it is expected that the term permits will have been put into effect in at least one grazing district in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. A total of 49 grazing districts has been set up. Pending installation of the term permit arrangement, temporary licenses will be issued. It is estimated that between 18,000 and 20,000 permits will be required in supervising the grazing operations on the federal range.

Major features of the new federal range code as summarized from a Department of the Interior release, are:

A method for prevention of overgrazing will be made possible through computation of an animal unit month—the amount of feed necessary for one cow for one month—and the carrying capacity of the land, representing the amount of natural or cultivated feed produced on a given area in one year, measured in animal unit months. One horse or five goats or five sheep are considered the equivalent of one cow.

Possession of sufficient land, water, or feed to insure a year round operation for a certain number of live stock in connection with the use of the public domain will be required for all users.

Preference in the granting of grazing privileges will be given to applicants within or near a district who are land-owners engaged in the live-stock business, bona fide occupants or settlers, or owners of water or water rights, as may be necessary to permit proper use of the lands, water, or water rights.

Priority in the issuance of permits is dependent upon the character of "base properties"—properties used for the support of the live stock for which a grazing privilege is sought, and on the basis of which the extent of the license or permit is computed.

These "base properties" are divided into two classifications: "land dependent by use," which means forage land used in connection with live-stock operations on the public domain for any three years or any two consecutive years in the five-year period immediately preceding enactment of the Taylor Grazing

Act on June 28, 1934, and "land dependent by location," forage land within or in the immediate neighborhood of the federal range, and so situated that the conduct of economic live-stock operations requires the use of the federal range in connection with it.

Stock-watering facilities also are divided into the major classifications of "full time water," affording adequate supply throughout the grazing season on a range, and "prior water," used to service stock during the five-year period before June 28, 1934.

In determining the granting of grazing privileges, these classes are combined into three grades of requirements for primary consideration. Class 1 includes land dependent by both location and use, and full time prior water; Class 2, land dependent by use only, and full time water; and Class 3, land dependent by location only, and full time water.

To the extent of the available range facilities, permits will be issued in the order of these classes, and if the issuance of permits in any particular class exhausts the available federal range any junior class or classes of properties will be eliminated from consideration.

The code sets aside sufficient carrying capacity on the federal range for the maintenance of a reasonable number of wild game animals, and authorizes the issuance of free use permits for not to exceed 10 head of work or milch stock.

It also provides that special rules to meet local conditions may be recommended by regional graziers for inclusion in the code upon approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

Methods of invoking the term permit system in grazing districts on the federal range may be illustrated by the following hypothetical case:

If John Jones owns the kind of property which is necessary to have for a year round live-stock operation in connection with the public lands in his neighborhood, he is in the preferred class. What kind of property is necessary is a question determined by the local conditions where he lives. If he is in New Mexico or Arizona, the chances are that such property will be stock water because the public lands are open to grazing in those states the year round, but drinking water is so scarce that it must be privately developed to utilize the public range.

If he is in the mountains of Montana or Wyoming, where the snow prevents grazing of the public lands in winter, then the necessary property would be hay or other cultivated feed with which to keep alive his live stock during the winter months and when they could not be on the public lands.

When all such necessary private properties are added up for any district, if they provide for more live stock than the public lands can accommodate, then those whose property was "established" at the time when the act was passed

are given consideration ahead of those whose property was not so established.

The test for this requirement of "established" for land is that it has been used in live-stock operations in connection with the public land for "any three or two consecutive years in the five-year period" preceding the act. For water, any use before the date of the act in live-stock operations in the five-year period preceding the act is sufficient.

John Jones' application for a grazing permit is first scrutinized by a committee of his neighbors, who make a recommendation on it, and is then decided by the regional grazier. From his action, the applicant has a right to appeal to the director of grazing and the Secretary of the Interior.

The full text of the Federal Range Code will be found in another part of this month's PRODUCER.

STATE STOCK BODIES HOLD MEETINGS

MEETING ON APRIL 1 IN THE huge new coliseum of the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, members of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association expressed approval of the present hoof-and-mouth disease embargo, endorsed voluntary efforts toward soil conservation but opposed "any program of regimentation or government control of the production of live stock," condemned processing taxes on live stock or live-stock products; requested increase in tariffs on canned beef and hides, and opposed reduction in excise tax on oils and oil-bearing seeds.

The group opposed any lowering of tariffs on live stock or live-stock products in the reciprocal trade agreements. It recommended that consumer prices of beef be lowered in ratio to lower wholesale prices, and that 50 cents a car be collected for the Meat Board. Opposition to the train-length bill was expressed. Other resolutions opposed a state-wide compulsory Bang's disease program under present methods of testing.

The Louisiana cattlemen commended the work of the American National Live Stock Association and pledged their support to that body. Another resolution congratulated Swift and Company on its nearly completed ultra-modern packing plant at Lake Charles.

Keen interest was shown in the growing problem of live-stock theft. The McCarran national animal theft bill, now in Congress, was approved, and a committee named to work on a new theft control law.

Speakers included B. W. Williams, head of the animal husbandry department of the Texas A. and M. College; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; F. W.

Spencer, administrator of the AAA in Louisiana; and Harry D. Wilson, state commissioner of agriculture.

An important event was the auction of the prize animal at a 4-H Club show and a calf sale in connection with the meeting. Louisiana's Governor Richard W. Leche, acting as auctioneer, let the hammer fall when Bill Terry, of the New York Giants, bought the calf for the Hotel New Yorker.

President Gayle of the Louisiana association and B. W. Williams of the Texas A. and M. College were made honorary members of the Block and Bridle Club, a national organization promoting all live-stock interests.

Officers of the Louisiana association are: Arthur L. Gayle, of Lake Charles, president; J. W. Patterson, of Tallulah, regional vice-president; L. A. Borne, of Raceland, regional vice-president; A. R. McBurney, of Welsh, regional vice-president; J. D. Cooper, of Natchitoches, regional vice-president; J. W. Bateman, of Baton Rouge, ex-officio vice-president; W. T. Cobb, of Baton Rouge, secretary-treasurer.

* * *

TEXAS CATTLEMEN ARE FIRM believers in the advertising of meat, they want no further reduction in the live-stock tariff, and will have no tampering with the embargo against foot-and-mouth disease.

Resolutions to this effect were adopted at the 62nd annual convention of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association at San Antonio March 8-10. The cowmen backed up their stand on meat advertising with a recommendation that an assessment of 1 cent a head on cattle be made for the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

In addition to the demand for a halt in tariff reductions on live stock or its products, steps to "spread receipts" from Canada were urged. The resolution also requested that no increase be made in cattle quotas.

Other resolutions called for opposition to live-stock freight rate increases; adjustment of present freight rates on imported fats and oils which are lower than rates on the domestic commodity; opposition to the train length bills; increasing truck load limit to 14,000 pounds; extension of commissioner loans where needed; regulation by the Secretary of Agriculture in administration of the new farm bill to protect the industry from further use of restricted areas for live-stock production.

United States Senator Tom Connally, from Texas, speaking to the convention, pleaded for protection of national resources and explained his opposition to the Argentine sanitary pact.

R. H. Cabell, president of Armour and Company, said that the problem of the industry today calls for constructive and co-operative efforts toward encouraging consumers to put a higher value on meat

and trying to make possible the production of live stock at a lower cost. He referred to the present splendid "Eat More Meat" campaign of the Institute of American Meat Packers and the nationwide co-operation in moving meat.

Referring to recent charges that two packers, one of them Armour, were handling such a large portion of total lamb shipments that it gave them control of prices, the packer president said that the reason why "Armour and a few other large packers bought a high percentage of the lambs was that there wasn't enough profit opportunity in them to make it worth while for the 300 or 400 other interstate packers to want to take the business by bidding higher prices for the lambs than we paid for them."

A report on national legislation and other matters affecting the industry was made by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association. Referring to the suggestion of reduced cost of production, Mr. Mollin said that "there has been too much attention paid to reducing production costs and raising prices and altogether too little attention paid to the problem of solving our system of distribution."

Other speakers included Jay Taylor, of Amarillo, second vice-president of the Texas organization; Hubbard Russell, Los Angeles, president of the American National Live Stock Association; R. C. Pollock, manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board; and Homer Davison, vice-president of the Institute of American Meat Packers.

Officers elected were: J. T. Sneed, of Amarillo, president; Richard King, of Corpus Christi, first vice-president; Jay Taylor, of Amarillo, second vice-president; John N. Sparks, of Fort Worth, treasurer; and Henry Bell, of Fort Worth, secretary and general manager.

Houston will be the 1939 convention city.

* * *

POLICIES EXPRESSED BY THE New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association in resolutions adopted at its 24th annual meeting in Santa Fe on March 23-24 called for an increase in the tariff on canned beef and hides and shoes and a halt in reduction in tariff rates on live stock or live-stock products.

The convention opposed the practice of packers purchasing their own cattle and placing them in feed-lots. It also opposed reopening of the Canadian reciprocal trade pact negotiations as threatening the American cattle industry, opposed laws limiting train lengths, and opposed any reduction in excise taxes on various oils and oil-bearing seeds.

Other resolutions proposed that the federal government restore funds to the Bankhead-Jones live-stock research program and assume a more proportionate share in the cost of biological surveys.

Oliver M. Lee, of Alamogordo, pioneer

stockman of New Mexico and former state senator, was made president of the New Mexico association.

M. L. Wilson, Undersecretary of Agriculture, a speaker at the meeting, told the cattlemen that the industry would not come to harm from the provisions in the new farm law allowing cultivation of hay and grass on acres taken out of cotton and corn production. He defended the reciprocal policy.

Other speakers included Hubbard Russell, of Los Angeles, California, president of the American National Live Stock Association; H. J. Gramlich, of the University of Nebraska; and A. W. Hockenhull, of Clovis.

LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

TAHOE LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION members, meeting recently in Marysville, California, elected officers as follows: H. E. McGonigal, of Smartsville, president; E. E. Payen, of Folsom, vice-president; and Vernon Stoll, of Grass Valley, secretary. Among speakers at the gathering were W. P. Wing, secretary of the California Wool Growers' Association, and John Curry, secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association. Resolutions adopted opposed freight rate increase on live stock, any reduction in tariff on wool, and passage of the freight train limit bill. The association also went on record as opposed to importation of meat from countries known to have foot-and-mouth disease. Processing taxes were condemned. Members favored the McCarran live-stock theft bill. They asked that Canadian cattle imports be "spread" to prevent gluts.

The Elbert County Stock Growers' Association, meeting in Kiowa, Colorado, recently, resolved that members provide a uniform bill of sale in any live-stock transfer and demand an approved instrument when they purchase live stock. The bill-of-sale forms are to be furnished to the members by the Colorado state cattlemen's association. The group opposed further reduction in the tariffs or quotas on live stock and products and voted against modification of existing embargoes. Passage of the McCarran theft bill, which makes it a federal offense to move stolen live stock across state lines, was urged. The group endorsed the resolutions of the annual convention of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association and the American National Live Stock Association.

Printed uniform bill-of-sale blanks are being provided by the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association for its members and affiliated local association members. "A uniform printed instrument to take the place of documents

often scribbled on wrapping paper, backs of envelopes, and the like, fills a long-felt want," says Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the Colorado state association. "It will discourage forgery; it will help in our campaign against the rubber-tired rustler." The simplified form, prepared by Dr. Davis to conform to Colorado laws requiring a bill of sale in the transfer of cattle, is printed on check-book paper and in check-book size, sets forth the sale and delivery clause, consideration, provides space for listing sex, number, age, brand, ear-marks, and the signature and address of the owner. A memorandum stub goes with it. Thus far, says Dr. Davis, all the organizations approached in the matter have decided to use the forms.

El Paso county stock growers met at Colorado Springs on March 19 to plan ways and means of increasing membership and activities in their local organization, established 65 years ago. Manager-Secretary B. F. Davis, of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, addressed the group on the subjects of rustling, the national "Eat More Meat" campaign, and the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Field Bohart, Jr., of Colorado Springs, is president of the local body; William H. Paul, of Eastonville, secretary.

Cattlemen in the Panhandle Live Stock Association recommended in their recent annual meeting an assessment of 50 cents on each car of beef sent to market in order to finance advertising of meat. The advertising goal was boosted after Jay Taylor, of Amarillo, member of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, pointed out that other foods, many of which are substitutes for meat, were being given increased publicity. C. W. Weymouth was re-elected president of the association, M. T. Johnson, vice-president, and Grover Hill, of Amarillo, secretary-treasurer.

Members of the New Mexico Wool Growers' Association are opposed to further local, state, or federal taxes and "wastefulness and extravagance in the spending of public monies," condemn reciprocal trade treaties and the Argentine pact, object to freight rate increases, and oppose acquisition by the federal government of more land for Indian reservations and state parks. In all 25 resolutions were adopted at a recent meeting of this group. The members re-elected Floyd Lee, of San Mateo, New Mexico, president.

Officers chosen at the recent annual meeting at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, of the Sweetwater Live Stock Association were: James Stephens, Dominic Dodo, and Clarence Stephens, all of Gypsum, as president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, respectively.

CROP REPORTING BOARD PREDICTS 1938 PLANTINGS

UNITED STATES FARMERS intend to plant 94,595,000 acres of corn this year, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This compares with a harvested acreage in 1937 of 96,483,000 acres.

Other crops, compared with last year's planted acreages, will be (000 omitted):

	Indicated 1938	1937
Spring wheat.....	22,282	23,750
Durum	3,613	3,226
Other spring.....	18,669	20,524
Oats	36,233	37,101
Barley	10,947	11,570
Flaxseed	1,112	1,302
Rice	1,073	1,093
Grain sorghums, all....	8,826	8,377
Potatoes	3,102	3,216
Tobacco	1,784	1,706
Beans, dry edible	1,837	1,943
Soybeans*	5,906	6,139
Cowpeas*	3,464	3,448
Peanuts	2,050	1,945
Tame hay†.....	57,000	54,792

*Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.
†Acreage harvested.

Elgin O. Kothmann

ELGIN O. KOTHMANN, FOR many years owner of the Premier Ranch near Mason, Texas, and one of the Southwest's best known breeders, passed away February 3 at Waco, Texas, following five weeks of illness. He was 50 years old.

Mr. Kothmann was born on the Premier Ranch. He was a member of the American National Live Stock Association.

CALENDAR

- April 29—Annual Feeders' Day, Lincoln, Neb.
- May 14—Convention Harding County Live Stock Ass'n, Bufalo, S. D.
- May 18-20—Convention of Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n, Helena, Mont.
- May 20-21—Convention Oregon Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n, Baker.
- May 23-24—Convention Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n, Omak.
- June 2-4—Convention Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n, Torrington.
- June 7-9—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, No. Salt Lake, Utah.
- June 9-11—Convention Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n, Scottsbluff.
- June 17-18—Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Trinidad, Colo.

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TRADE PACT PROGRAM MUST STAND ON OWN MERIT

THE FRANTIC EFFORTS OF THE administration to force acceptance of the reciprocal trade policy can mean only one thing: that the authorities are alarmed at the growing tide of resistance coming in from all sides. Agriculture, labor, and industry are joining hands to protest against the steady whittling away of the tariff barriers behind which the United States has risen to a position that is the envy of the world.

The advantage is all on the side of the administration. A huge publicity machine is available, with several departments of the government combining to that end; most of the newspapers of the country are on its side; the opposition is scattered and unorganized. Nor is that all. A new organization, well financed—the Economic Policy Committee—has been set up, and its emissaries are spreading through the land to glorify the beauties of foreign trade—although we consume at home 95 per cent of our manufactured products.

So far no great fault can be found with the efforts outlined. We have come to recognize government propaganda as just that. Few people believe everything that they read in the newspapers, and efforts of the old National Foreign Trade Council or of the new Economic Policy Association to convince hard-headed farmers and stockmen that they are going to prosper by cutting down the tariff and increasing the imports of competitive agricultural products will go largely for naught.

But the new tactic—to preface every statement regarding the trade program with a warning that we must lower tariff barriers or face the threat of war

—seems hardly defensible. As one official speaker recently put it: "If this economic warfare can't be stopped, it will go into bloodshed warfare." Have we forgotten that less than a generation ago solemn treaties were considered mere "scraps of paper," and that every treaty made in supposed settlement of the Great War itself has been disregarded as though of no importance? Does anyone think that reciprocal trade agreements possess some magic quality that would have stopped the Italians in Ethiopia or the Japanese in China—or perhaps one should remember that those were not official wars.

American people are not easily bluffed. Temporarily they may be misled as to the real issue. Eventually, if the trade agreement program is to survive as a permanent part of our tariff structure, it will be only because time and statistics prove that it is working in the interest of the American farmer and the American laboring man, and not because of any claim that it is going to preserve world peace.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

FOR MANY YEARS THE AMERICAN National Live Stock Association has fought the battles of the western cowman, while the National Wool Growers' Association has performed a like service for the sheepmen of the West. In years past these bodies had active support from live-stock groups in the Corn Belt, but, as the three national farm organizations developed, to a large degree they absorbed the activities of the Corn Belt groups. More recently they have turned their attention to the West, the Farm Bureau in particular, and have made intense efforts to get stockmen to join up, apparently on the theory that they were big enough and wise enough to look out for everybody. A favorite argument has been that stockmen should get in the Farm Bureau and help control its policies in their interest.

While some stockmen have joined, temporarily at least, in the main they have maintained their support of and allegiance to the live-stock organizations. In fact, the American National Live Stock Association has registered a constant growth in membership while these activities have been in progress.

Recent events clearly show the wisdom of sticking to your own commodity organizations. Never has there been a time when the national agricultural organizations were so far apart on so many important issues. For instance, the National Agricultural Conference, composed of the leading farm, dairy, and co-operative associations, was formed for the purpose of presenting early each year as Congress convened an agricultural program unanimously supported by the group. This year it

could not reach an accord on a single major issue and hence retired from the scene unheard and unmourned.

The Farm Bureau is backing the reciprocal trade program in the hope of securing reduced tariffs on manufactured products which American farmers buy. Most of the other farm and live-stock groups are opposing it, more fearful of reductions in the tariff on agricultural products.

The Corn Belt is feeling the need of commodity organizations. An effort is being made to secure an excise tax on pork products to check the rapidly increasing imports. There is no hog producer organization to sponsor it, and various related groups are trying to fill the gap.

There are rumors of a new cattle organization in Iowa and Illinois, which will fill a long felt want. The South is getting organized. The Louisiana Cattlemen's Association is already affiliated with the American National Live Stock Association, with its 130 member associations, and other new associations are contemplating similar action.

Stick with your own commodity organization. Every dollar it spends is spent in your behalf. It is not influenced by how many bales of cotton or bushels of wheat have to be exported, but is earnestly striving to preserve the American market for the American producer to the full extent of his ability to supply it. Every stockman believes in that policy and should give it his undivided support.

IN ANSWER TO PACT PROPAGANDA

ALTHOUGH ONLY INACTION marks the Argentine sanitary convention at present, there are some recent claims by administration proponents of the pact that need correcting.

The state department says that the convention would not reduce protection; that its only effect would be to restore the discretion of the Department of Agriculture existing prior to the Tariff Act of 1930.

But the convention would not take us back to the situation which existed prior to 1930. The Secretary of Agriculture then had power to maintain a complete embargo, and did so from January 1, 1927, until the enactment of the Tariff Act of 1930. The proposed treaty would tie his hands so that he would have to open up under the conditions specified. And these conditions would be that "neither contracting party may prohibit the importation of animal or plant products originating in and coming from territories or zones of the other country which the importing country finds to be free from animal or plant diseases or insect pests or from exposure to such diseases or pests for

the reason that such diseases or pests exist in other territories or zones of the other country." We should practically have to take Argentine inspectors' word on this score.

The officials refer to our present law as "embargo protection under guise of an arbitrary and sweeping sanitary measure." We wonder how this accusation would sound were the country to experience an epidemic such as England, Europe, Africa, and other parts of the world have suffered the past year. We might have had a costly outbreak except for our embargo. And the embargo is not against Argentina. It is against foot-and-mouth disease. We do not need to take chances with the disease as must deficit meat producing countries.

Argentina's attitude toward our embargo is described as one of condemnation and resentment. There is no beef produced for export, it is said, from the quarter claimed as disease free, it being a sheep rather than a cattle country. Meat imports that developed would be confined to lamb and mutton and prospects of a significant development in that commodity are nil, it is claimed.

When the tariff on mutton was 2½ cents and on lamb 4 cents, Argentina sent only a little more than a million pounds of the product to this market. The tariff is now about twice as high, and the intimation therefore is that little of the commodity would be sent to us. So, it can be pointedly asked, why the resentment?

Our embargo has resulted in a loss of trade with Argentina, say the convention proponents. In the depression years, of course, trade fell off. So it did with the world at large. Exports to Argentina in say 1932 and 1933 were \$31,133,000 and \$36,927,358, respectively. In 1937 they were \$94,173,088. Imports in 1932 were \$15,779,000; in 1933, \$33,841,203; in 1937, \$139,122,627. The trade, under more favorable conditions, is reviving, with Argentina getting the big end of the deal. By the way, Argentina seems to find it easy to send us millions of pounds of her canned beef even over a 6-cent tariff. Her currency has been cheapened—perhaps that is the answer.

The present law has kept this country free from foot-and-mouth disease. From 1900 to 1925 there were seven severe outbreaks in the United States. Since January, 1927, when the BAI clamped down on imports from any region or zone of any diseased country, there has been one minor outbreak, originating from garbage coming from ships engaged in South American trade, the unloading of which was in violation of BAI orders.

With that record, there is every justification for keeping the present law intact. The prolonged inaction on the proposed treaty indicates that the Senate agrees that we need our embargo and is unwilling to risk letting down the bars under the conditions imposed in the agreement.

GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON NOTES

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S REORGANIZATION bill was killed in the House on April 8 when that body by an eight-vote margin sent it back to committee. This action killed possibility of the bill's reconsideration this session. The opposition charged that the bill would give the President dictatorial powers, destroy the American form of democratic government, and endanger the Civil Service. The Senate had previously passed its version of the measure on March 28 after much debate. The bill among other things would have given the President power to "streamline" the executive department by reorganizing, consolidating, and transferring agencies supposedly in interest of economy and administration. It would wipe out the office of comptroller general, create a new Department of Public Welfare, and place one man at the head of the Civil Service Commission instead of the present three-man commission.

Tax revision was ready for Senate consideration the early part of April. As approved by the Senate Finance Committee, the undistributed profits tax is completely repealed, while it is retained in modified form in the bill passed by the House. Corporation income tax is at a flat rate of 18 per cent, with a special credit for corporations with smaller incomes. Existing laws which penalize corporations for unreasonable accumulation of surplus was strengthened. The 6-cent a pound excise tax on imported pork products was struck out by the Senate committee. The committee declined to write into the bill a 3-cent a pound excise tax on imported canned beef which had been proposed by Senator J. C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming. This would have been in addition to the present 6-cent duty on canned beef. Both Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace opposed the pork and beef taxes. The proposal for processing taxes to finance parity payments for farmers under the new farm act was refused by the committee. . . . In asking for the 3-cent excise tax on canned beef, Senator O'Mahoney stated that "imports of canned beef have been steadily rising since 1931 and now exceed the imports of 1929, before the passage of the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill. Exports on beef, on the other hand, have been steadily falling since 1930. The preliminary estimate for 1937 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, for example, shows exports of 8,172,000 pounds as compared with 16,380,000 pounds in 1930. While our exports of beef have thus been practically cut in two, imports have increased from 58,422,000 pounds to 89,839,000 pounds."

A measure designed to help business by broadening the power of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make loans to municipalities and business firms which cannot get loans from private banks has been passed by both Senate and House and goes to conference where some differences are to be ironed out.

Hundreds of witnesses had asked to be heard in connection with the British trade agreement negotiations. Hearings began on March 16. Western wool growers were particularly fearful of concessions that would damage their market. . . . Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, supported tariff cuts. . . . A labor point of view as expressed by M. J. Gillooly, president of the American Flint Glass Workers Union, was that "our interest in this question of tariff rates or customs taxes on imports of comparable or competitive flint glassware from foreign countries is not one of theory or world peace. It is one of bread and butter for workers, their families, as well as the many communities wherein these glass factories are located. . . . We know the effect of importations not by fictitious valuation figures issued by the Department of Commerce, based as they are on foreign valuation, but through the closing of plants and our workers being forced to accept lower wages if they want work producing articles sold in our own American market."

Five senators and five representatives will investigate the Tennessee Valley Authority. They are empowered by a House-Senate resolution also to investigate into the activities of private utility companies which have opposed the project and all phases of the government in the power business.

The range conservation program has been amended to conform with provisions of the new farm act. In outline and essential details the amended program is the same as the 1938 range program announced prior to enactment of the new farm legislation. Provision for increasing small payments has been added. Persons earning payments of less than \$200 will have their payments increased by sums ranging up to \$14. Limitation of payments to not more than \$10,000 to one person, firm, or corporation is not applicable in 1938, but will be effective next year. . . . Minor changes in details of the conservation phase of the AAA program have been made affecting (1) tobacco base acreages, (2) peanut acreage goals, (3) crop allotment in cotton and tobacco farms, (4) classification of

farms in several western counties, (5) payments in serious wind erosion areas where farms are allowed to become wind erosion hazards through failure to carry out control measures, and (6) rate of credit for green manure crop practice.

Results of the three AAA marketing quota referendums held March 12 were: cotton, 1,406,088 yeas and 120,940 nays; flue-cured tobacco, 219,842 for, 35,253 against; fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco, 39,328 to 9,460.

In the opinion of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace "it will be a good thing for farmers who specialize in raising and feeding live stock to insure an adequate supply of food at a reasonable price by having an extra crib of corn stored on their farms. While last year's weather was unusually favorable for corn production, no one can with certainty tell whether or not this year's weather will be equally favorable, and with this abundant supply on hand we should not take this chance." The time for farmers to make application for corn loans has been extended indefinitely. The loans are available only to farmers who cooperated with the AAA in 1937.

Recommendations by President Roosevelt's three-man committee to remedy railroad ills include: (1) Creation of a special body to give particular attention to speeding reorganization. (2) Financial aid essential under reorganization plans would be made available by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under its expanded lending powers. (3) RFC loans could be secured by rail securities or equipment. (4) Elimination of needless duplication, such as terminal facilities. . . . An executive-labor program, it is understood, will stress two points: (1) Restoration of credit to railroads so that they can catch up on long-deferred maintenance, thus creating business for the heavy goods industries and employment. (2) Reduction of heavy debt structures through voluntary reorganization of railroads, particularly those systems near bankruptcy; legislation to curtail power of minority creditors, who now are able to delay debt reduction programs advocated by majority creditors. . . . "Postalizing" railroad passenger rates is planned in a bill by Representative Lemke, of North Dakota, which would divide the country into zones, similar to the system upon which the Post Office Department operates parcel post. The price anywhere in the United States would not exceed \$5. The congressman said a rush of new passenger traffic which would result from such a system would more than offset the differential between the "postalized" rates and the present tariffs. . . . A proposed measure would provide a federal system of unemployment insurance for the railroad workers.

It would levy a tax of 3 per cent (payable by the railroads) on salaries up to \$300 per month. "This will save the railroads \$1,200,000 annually since they now pay in all states 3 per cent or more on the whole payroll," sponsors of the bill said. No tax would be levied on employees.

Payments to farmers under the 1936 agricultural conservation program up to November 30, 1937, including national, state, and county administrative costs, totaled \$398,230,333. Payments were made to approximately 4,000,000 farmers who participated in the program. State office expenses in connection with the 1936 program were \$11,829,105 and Washington administrative expense totaled \$381,342,688—including county expenses. Of this amount, a total of \$5,250,862 was paid to local farm committees for county expenses in connection with the 1937 agricultural conservation program.

Changes in hide import rules are being considered by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. S. O. Fladness, chief of field inspection, stated that, because of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth epidemics in Europe, it would be necessary to tighten up on certification and disinfection of hides. He also said that the bureau had in mind certain changes in regulations covering anthrax that should prove helpful to tanners importing raw stock.

After three months' deliberation, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Ebert K. Burlew as first assistant secretary of the interior. . . . Julius E. Nordby has been appointed director of the Western Regional Sheep Breeding

Laboratory at Dubois, Idaho. Mr. Nordby for 20 years has served on the staff of the University of Idaho. The new work includes study of different intensities of inbreeding and crossbreeding, the selection of breeding stock on the basis of proved sires, and other sheep-breeding factors related to the improvement of meat and wool.

Quick response to recommendation made by the Legislative Committee of the American National Live Stock Association in January that the government's beef-grading service be publicized came when the Division of Information of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presented an interview on the subject in the March 8 NBC Farm and Home Hour. From time to time, information regarding the beef-grading service will be made as part of the radio programs. . . . Responsive to request by the cattle industry for more liberal terms of repayment of commissioner farm and ranch loans when necessary is the following from Governor W. I. Myers, of the Farm Credit Administration: "Where a borrower is temporarily in distress by reason of a crop failure or some other condition which is not likely to continue, a short-term extension of the delinquent items may be justified. . . . If, however, the banks' study of the case develops that the borrower is delinquent and that the semi-annual installments on the loan as now written are heavier than the income from the farm can normally carry and the borrower has no assets from which he might otherwise meet his payments, the entire loan may be extended." It is suggested that the "borrowers, who after making an honest effort feel they cannot repay the principal of their com-

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missioner loans during the period written in the mortgage contract, contact the secretary-treasurer of the local farm loan association."

* * *

The five-man Legislative Committee of the American National Live Stock Association spent considerable time in Washington recently in behalf of the western live-stock industry, with President Hubbard Russell and Secretary F. E. Mollin working hard to avert further tariff cuts on live stock or products under the trade agreement program. Secretary Mollin appeared before the Senate Finance Committee to urge an excise tax of 3 cents on canned beef.

* * *

Operation of motor vehicles in interstate commerce by unlicensed operators would be prohibited by S. 589 now passed by the Senate. It applies to drivers of passenger cars as well as truck and bus operators. An amendment was adopted to make it effective four years after date of enactment.

* * *

Recent changes in rules affecting agencies under supervision of the Packers and Stock Yards Act provide (1) that after the effective date of any general order prescribing reasonable rates for market agencies and licensees every market agency and licensee thereafter shall conform to such order; (2) that no market agency or licensee should pay over the net proceeds to any person other than the owner or his duly authorized agent except on an order from the Secretary of Agriculture or competent court unless the person to whom the proceeds are paid holds a valid mortgage or lien on the live stock or a written order executed by the owner at the time the consignment is made; and (3) for altered method of calculating the amount of bond to be carried by a market agency or dealer which is intended to apply chiefly to so-called auction markets where sales are held only one or two days a week.

COMPLETE TEXT OF NEW RANGE CODE

THE NEW FEDERAL RANGE Code, as issued by Director of Grazing F. R. Carpenter and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, is given in full below:

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTORY; BASIC POLICY AND PLAN OF ADMINISTRATION.

Par. a. Grazing districts will be administered for the conservation of the public domain and as far as compatible therewith to promote the proper use of the privately controlled lands and waters dependent upon it. Possession of sufficient land, water, or feed to insure a year round operation for a certain

number of live stock in connection with the use of the public domain will be required of all users.

Par. b. *Preference applicants.*—Preference in the granting of grazing privileges will be given to those applicants within or near a district who are landowners engaged in the live-stock business, bona fide occupants or settlers, or owners of water or water rights, as may be necessary to permit the proper use of lands, water, or water rights owned, occupied, or leased by them. When the demands of all such preference applicants cannot be supplied, prior consideration will be given certain applicants in the manner hereinafter provided. Provision will be made for other applicants in so far as federal range remains available.

Par. c. *Permits; temporary licenses; expiration; revocation.*—Permits within the meaning of section 3 of the act will be issued as soon as the necessary data for term permits can be obtained. During the intervening period, in order to provide for the existing live-stock industry, the issuance of temporary licenses will be continued. Licenses issued in 1938 will be operative only during that year or such part of 1939 as may be considered the "winter grazing season," but in no event later than July 1, 1939. Upon the issuance of permits within any district or portion thereof, any unexpired licenses in such district or portion may be terminated upon notice by the Division of Grazing. Both licenses and permits will be revocable for violation of the terms thereof.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Wherever used in rules, instructions or interpretations issued by the Division of Grazing, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) *The act* means the Taylor Grazing Act (act of June 28, 1934 [48 Stat. 1269], as amended by the act of June 26, 1936 [49 Stat. 1976]), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

(b) *The Federal Range Code* means all of the rules pertaining to the administration of grazing districts.

(c) *Federal range* means land owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the United States and administered by the Division of Grazing.

(d) *Property* means privately owned or controlled land or water used in range live-stock operations.

(e) *Base property* means property used for the support of the live stock for which a grazing privilege is sought and on the basis of which the extent of a license or permit is computed, without reference to forest permits or complementary feed.

(f) *Forage land* means land the principal use of which is the production of natural or cultivated feed for live stock.

(g) *Land dependent by use* means forage land which was used in live-stock operations in connection with the same part of the public domain, which part is now federal range, for any three years or for any two consecutive years in the five-year period immediately preceding June 28, 1934, and which is offered as base property in an application for a grazing license or a permit filed before

June 28, 1938. Land will be considered dependent by use only to the extent of that part of it necessary to maintain the average number of live stock grazed on the public domain in connection with it for any three years or for any two consecutive years, whichever is the more favorable to the applicant, during the five-year period immediately preceding June 28, 1934.

(h) *Land dependent by location* means forage land within or in the immediate neighborhood of the federal range which is so situated and of such character that the conduct of economic live-stock operations requires the use of the federal range in connection with it.

(i) *Animal-unit month* means that amount of natural, cultivated, or complementary feed necessary for the complete subsistence of one cow for a period of one month. For the purpose of this definition, one horse or five goats or five sheep will be considered the equivalent of one cow.

(j) *Carrying capacity* means the amount of natural or cultivated feed grown or produced on a given area of forage land in one year, measured in animal unit months.

(k) *Full time water* means water which is suitable for consumption by live stock and available, accessible, and adequate for a given number of live stock during those months in the year for which the range is classified as suitable for use. Such water may be from one source or may be the aggregate amount available from several sources.

(l) *Prior water* is water which was used to service certain range for a given number of live stock during the five-year period immediately preceding June 28, 1934. It will be considered prior water only to the extent of the greatest number of live stock that was properly grazed from it during said period.

(m) *Service value of water* means the number of live stock that can be grazed properly from such water.

(n) *Competing water* means water which is available, accessible, and adequate to service some part of the federal range serviced by other water of the same class. In determining whether prior waters are competing, each shall be considered only to the extent that it is prior water.

(o) *Complementary feed* means the cultivated feed purchased by an applicant and fed to his range live stock for a period of time during which he is not using the federal range.

(p) *Free-use applicant* means an applicant who is a resident within or near a grazing district, who owns or controls property dependent by location, and who is not an applicant for a regular grazing license or permit for the purpose of carrying on live-stock operations.

(q) *Nonuse license or permit* means a license or permit issued to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for a regular license or permit but who either elects or is required, for conservation purposes, not to have live stock on the federal range for a designated time.

SEC. 3. PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS.

An applicant for a grazing license or permit is qualified if he owns live stock and is

(a) A citizen of the United States or one who has filed his declaration of intention to become such, or

(b) A group, association, or corporation authorized to conduct business under the laws of the state in which the grazing district or any part thereof in which the applicant's license or permit is to be effective is located.

SEC. 4. RATING AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTIES.

Par. a. *Base properties; classes; carrying capacity of land; service value of water.*—For the purpose of determining the proper use of the base properties of all applicants and their relative dependence upon the federal range, water conditions and other factors affecting livestock operations in the area will be considered. Base properties will be classified as land or water and further in the following manner:

Class 1. Forage land dependent by both location and use, a full time prior water.

Class 2. Forage land dependent by use only, and full time water.

Class 3. Forage land dependent by location only, and full time water which otherwise would be in Class 2 but which was developed later than other water servicing a part or all of the same area.

Base property which is forage land will be rated for its carrying capacity. Water will be rated for its service value by deducting therefrom the carrying capacity of half of the area serviced jointly by competing water of the same class, and the carrying capacity of all private or state land located within such service area and not owned or controlled by the applicant. In computing the service value of water in Class 3, there will also be deducted therefrom the carrying capacity of any portion of its service area which is serviceable from any other full time water antedating it in development.

Par. b. *National forest grazing permits; complementary feed.*—The value of national forest grazing permits and complementary feed will be computed in animal-unit months where necessary under these rules, but neither will be considered as base property.

SEC. 5. RATING AND CLASSIFICATION OF FEDERAL RANGE.

Par. a. *Carrying capacity; seasons and maximum annual period of use.*—For the purpose of determining what use of the federal range will be most consistent with conservation purposes, the carrying capacity of each administrative unit or area in a grazing district will be rated, and each will be classified for the proper season or seasons, if necessary, of its use and for the maximum period of time for which any licensee or permittee will be allowed to use the federal range lying therein during any one year.

Par. b. *Wild life; allowance for maintenance.*—In each grazing district a sufficient carrying capacity of federal range will be reserved for the maintenance of a reasonable number of wild game animals to use the range in common with live stock grazing in the district.

Par. c. *Segregation of ranges for particular kinds of live stock.*—When the

proper use of the federal range or an orderly administration of the act requires it, certain areas may be designated as suitable exclusively for a certain kind or kinds of live stock.

SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF LICENSES AND PERMITS.

Par. a. *Free-use licenses and permits.* Licenses or permits first will be issued to free-use applicants for not to exceed 10 head of work or milch stock kept for domestic purposes to be grazed on federal range adjacent to or in the immediate neighborhood of the licensee's or permittee's property.

Par. b. *Regular licenses and permits; order of issuance; number of live stock; reductions; allotments.*—Regular licenses or permits will be issued to qualified applicants to the extent that federal range is available in the following preference order and amounts:

(1) To applicants owning or controlling land in Class 1, licenses or permits for the number of live stock for which such base lands are rated for a period of time which when added to the period of use allowed on the federal range for such live stock will equal 12 months; and to applicants owning or controlling water in Class 1, licenses or permits to the extent of the service value of such water.

(2) To applicants owning or controlling base properties in Class 2, licenses or permits computed in the same manner as those issued under sub-paragraph (1) above.

(3) To applicants owning or controlling base properties in Class 3, licenses or permits computed in the same manner as those issued under sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

In the event that federal range remains available following the computation of licenses or permits in the foregoing manner, the licenses or permits to be issued to applicants owning or controlling any base property the use of which in connection with the federal range is supplemented by the use of a forest permit or complementary feed will be augmented to the extent of the number of live stock which such forest permit or complementary feed would support for a period equivalent to the base-property period described above. In the event that there is insufficient federal range to permit this maximum allowance, all such licenses or permits, irrespective of classes of base property, will be augmented in proportion to the carrying capacities of the base properties of the applicants.

Par. c. *Applicants having more than one class of property; reductions; allotments; agreements.*—Nothing herein contained will prevent an applicant who owns or controls properties in more than one class from having such properties considered separately in the order and manner set forth in this section. If the issuance of licenses or permits based on properties in any particular class will exhaust the available federal range, any junior class or classes of properties will be eliminated from consideration. If necessary to reach the carrying capacity of the federal range either at the time of issuing licenses or permits or thereafter, reductions will be applied on an equal percentage basis. In making such reduc-

tions, the lowest class of properties will be reduced first, and no class of properties will be reduced until the properties in all lower classes have been reduced. Reductions in all cases will be made by reducing the numbers of live stock or the time on the federal range area involved, or by both methods, provided that the regional grazier may recommend, for the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, a limit below which no license or permit in that area will be reduced. Allotments of federal range will be made to licensees or permittees when conditions warrant and divisions of the range by agreement or by former practice will be respected and followed where practicable.

SEC. 7. TRANSFERS OF BASE PROPERTIES AND LICENSES OR PERMITS.

Par. a. *Transfer of base property; effect.*—A transfer of a base property, whether by agreement or by operation of law, will entitle the transferee, if otherwise properly qualified, to all or such part of a license or permit as is based on the property transferred, and the original license or permit will be terminated or decreased by such transfer.

Par. b. *Transfer of license or permit; limitation; effects; consent of owner or encumbrancer.*—A license or permit based on land in Class 2 may be transferred to base land in any other class, provided that the total extent of the grazing privileges based on the latter land and thereupon to be in effect, including any license or permit already in existence and based on the latter land, may not exceed that based on the carrying capacity of such land. Such a transfer must be made with the written consent of the owners and encumbrancers, if any, of the property from which the transfer is made, except that when the

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licensee or permittee applying for the transfer is a tenant who has used such property in connection with some part of the public domain which is now federal range for any three years or for any two consecutive years in the five-year period immediately preceding June 28, 1934, and without such use by him the land could not be recognized as being dependent by use, he may transfer the license or permit without the consent of the owner or encumbrancer. When a license or permit is transferred from one property to another, the former shall lose its status as dependent by use.

SEC. 8. SPECIAL RULES FOR GRAZING DISTRICTS.

Whenever it appears to a regional grazier that local conditions in any district in his region make necessary the application of a special rule on any of the matters in this code in order better to achieve an administration consistent with the purposes of the act, he may recommend such a rule, supported by a factual showing of its necessity, to the Secretary of the Interior for approval.

IF AND WHEN IT RAINS

(Continued from page 7)

of developing protective organizations especially interested in wild life. Stockmen in the various western states have rendered their full share of co-operation in setting up these agencies.

The Department of the Interior attests to this fact, as the below excerpts from a release dated December 27, 1937, show:

"Stockmen of the West and Southwest, long advocates of the policy for prudent protection of the wild life within their territory, are rendering valuable assistance to the Division of Grazing, and rules and regulations designed to set aside adequate grazing and watering facilities for the wild animals have been endorsed by the 49 district advisory boards, elected to aid administration of the Taylor act in the 10 states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. . . .

Wild Life Increased

"Far from facing extinction, herds of wild animals in some sections of the grazing country have increased to the point where overproduction is a problem, reports to the Division of Grazing indicate. In California District 2, for example, herds of antelope have increased in such numbers as to present a problem in providing for their care.

"Contrary to general conception, the stockmen, through their advisory boards, have elicited a keen interest in wild life of all kinds, and there is an evident desire on their part for wildlife to be accorded its proper place in the use of all range, both public and private."

Many people interested solely in wild life have the erroneous belief that it is impractical for wild life and domestic live stock to graze on the same areas. Extremists among this group have demanded the complete removal of domestic live stock from many areas in order

further to propagate wild life species. It is the contention of the live-stock producers that it is entirely practical to graze wild life and domestic live stock on the same areas in reasonable numbers, and it is only when the wild life is accorded full protection with no limitation whatever that trouble develops.

The fact that constant use of the public ranges and of the national forests for the production of domestic live stock has not interfered with the program of restoring wild life to the greatest extent practical is evidenced by the following figures as published by the Forest Service, showing constant increase in the total numbers of most of the important species:

	1922	1936
Antelope	3,032	16,932
Bear, Black or Brown..	51,017*	57,891
Bear, Grizzly	3,380*	5,209
Deer	449,814	1,441,767
Elk	48,500	126,055
Moose	4,364	6,516
Mountain Goat.....	8,364	18,390
Mountain Sheep.....	12,317	11,373

*1927.

When wild life is protected to an extreme in a given area, a situation develops such as occurred on the Kaibab Forest some years ago. From 1908 to 1930, according to the official figures, deer increased on this forest from 4,000 head to 30,000 head. At the same time that this increase was taking place, cattle permitted on this forest were reduced from something like 14,000 in 1908 and 1909 to less than 2,000 in 1930, while sheep which had previously been cut to a low figure were gradually reduced from 5,000 in 1908 to less than half that number in 1930.

During the years 1924 and 1925, approximately 20,000 deer died from starvation, according to the forest ranger's report at that time.

According to Walter L. Dutton, chief, Division of Range Management, Forest Service, there are a few other areas, such as the Gunnison Forest in Colorado and the Whitman Forest in Oregon, which "show excessive damage by deer and elk grazing over a long period of time. In the Gunnison Forest no domestic stock contributed to the damage." In such cases a balance can and should be maintained which will provide room for such wild life as can properly be handled there and yet permit the grazing of reasonable numbers of live stock.

TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN Czechoslovakia and the United States was signed at Washington on March 7. It is the most sweeping of the 17 recent United States trade agreements thus far concluded. It became provisionally effective on April 16.

The United States granted Czecho-

slovakia limited concessions on shoes. The duties on sewed shoes and fabric shoes—this category forms less than 10 per cent of imported Czech shoes—were reduced, respectively, from 30 per cent ad valorem to 20, and from 35 to 25. Duties on cement-soled shoes were retained at 20 per cent.

An upper limit was placed on imports of cheap shoes from all countries. This limit is 1¼ per cent of the average total annual American production of this type of shoe during the last five years. Czechoslovakia is the largest foreign supplier of the cheap shoe in the American market.

Czech concessions on American exports covered: Reduction of duties on 7.8 per cent of imports from the United States; binding of duties on 4.4 per cent (this means duties may not be increased); binding of 64.5 per cent on the free list.

Exchange restrictions for American imports are done away with by Czechoslovakia. Cotton and copper are bound on the free list. Duties are lowered or quotas liberalized for American office machinery, electric refrigerators, automobiles, and a list of agricultural products.

NO MARKED CHANGE IN CATTLE PRICES

CATTLE PRICES ARE EXPECTED to remain near present levels during the next several months, according to the March report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The bureau does not expect much further decline in prices of the better grades, even though slaughter supplies are likely to increase seasonally during the spring months. In late summer and fall, it was pointed out, seasonal price improvement of the better grades may take place. However, without a considerable upturn in industrial activity and employment, this improvement may not be marked.

For the lower grades, prices usually advance in the spring. But this spring the present narrow spread between better grades of slaughter cattle and lower grades may prevent any material rise in lower grades of market cattle.

During summer and fall prices of lower grades of slaughter cattle usually decline seasonally. Slaughter supplies of cattle and heifers this year may increase less than usual as a result of restocking in areas where droughts have reduced numbers. Hence, the decline of the lower grades may not be pronounced, the bureau said.

The live-stock economists say the January cattle number figure—the smallest since the peak in 1934—probably represents the low point in the current cattle number cycle, and, with feed supplies per animal unit the largest in several years, some increase in cattle numbers is likely to occur during 1938.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

THE OPPOSITION OF THE AMERICAN National Live Stock Association to the Pettengill bill was outlined by Traffic Counsel Chas. E. Blaine March 21 at Washington, D. C., in hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and rests upon eight points as follows:

1. That experience and history show that the long-and-short-haul clause was enacted to prevent unjust discriminations of a particularly flagrant form which in the past have caused considerable irritation, complaint, and litigation.

2. That the present long-and-short-haul clause is just, reasonable, and practical.

3. That bills less vicious or identical to the Pettengill bill, although before Congress frequently since 1920, have failed of passage. All such bills, including the Pettengill bill, have been opposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

4. That the Pettengill bill would, if enacted into law, leave the railroads free to confer or withhold unlimited benefits. Such power is the power to coerce or destroy. Hence, the public interest requires that it be wholly condemned.

5. That the Pettengill bill cannot be harmonized with, but is diametrically opposed to, other measures enacted by Congress and now governing various media of transportation and the agencies of Congress which administer such laws.

6. That the individual rates, fares, and charges of the various media of transportation be established and maintained upon the basis of the full cost of performing the service plus a reasonable profit, thus (a) preventing restoration of monopoly in transportation and (b) securing co-ordination, upon the sound economic principle of their respective costs of service, of the various transport agencies into a national transportation system which will perform the maximum service to the public at minimum cost.

7. That under the present law the entire procedure and burden of proof rests upon the railroads. They must sustain such burden before the commission will authorize them to establish and maintain rates which are higher for shorter than for longer distances. The Pettengill bill does not thus protect the rights and interests of the shipping public, but subjects the shippers to tremendous and wholly new and unwarranted burdens.

8. That the contentions publicly advanced by the proponents in support of the Pettengill bill are fallacious and clearly unsound.

The hearing will no doubt continue until about the middle of April. Thereafter copy of the evidence of the proponents as well as of the opponents of the bill may be procured by addressing your senator.

On March 14 representative of the rail lines caused a list to be entered in evidence

purporting to show the names of the parties supporting the bill. The American National Live Stock Association was shown thereon. Mr. Blaine directed the attention of the committee to the fact that the association has been opposed to the bill for several years. Representative of the railroads stated that the name of the association along with several others shown on the list was in error and would be later corrected.

Ex Parte 123

The railroads and water lines, generally speaking, on March 28, established the increased interstate rates and charges authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission. In checking out the increases established, numerous situations requiring clarification and in some instances amendments have been and are being developed. This is due, no doubt to the hurried manner in which the tariffs were compiled and published. The railroads have formed a committee to consider such matters. Likewise the commission has assigned such work to its traffic department. This action has been taken in order to avoid further formal procedure before the commission whenever possible. Therefore, parties detecting errors in the published tariffs should in the first instance direct the attention of the railroads thereto, and, if the publication is not corrected, then the matter should be brought to the attention of Director Hardie of the commission.

The conclusion of the commission, in part, follows:

"All existing rates and charges, including those for accessorial services other than protective service against heat or cold, upon the date of this decision, including those found or prescribed by us as reasonable and not yet effective, may be increased, and as increased may be maintained (subject to application of the rule of fractions suggested upon the hearing), by 10 per cent, except the rates on products of agriculture other than tropical fruits; except the rates on animals and products and the products thereof and articles taking the same rates, horses and mules not being included in this exception; and except lumber, shingles, and lath, and articles taking lumber rates; and except the rates on cottonseed oil and vegetable oils, n.o.s., other than linseed oil; as to all of which excepted groups of commodities the increase in rates may be 5 per cent; and except anthracite, which may be increased 10 cents per ton of 2,000 pounds; and except bituminous coal, lignite, coke, and iron ore, which commodities justly and reasonably should bear no further increases than those already imposed pursuant to authority granted in the case last cited; all import rates may be increased 10 per cent, but not to exceed contemporaneous domestic rates increased as herein provided. But in making such increases, all effective in-

creases accomplished under the authority of the decision last cited, or in the transcontinental rates which were increased in connection therewith as before recited, and in the cotton rates and in those on other commodities effective early in 1937, as above described, shall be taken into account and considered as part of the increases here authorized, so that the above mentioned percentage increases shall not be made cumulative thereon. The increases authorized may not reasonably exceed the specific maxima originally proposed by the applicants to be applied upon lumber, sugar, fruits, and vegetables. Such rates and charges, as those upon fresh milk and cream, and those for protective service, which applicants in their petition or on the hearing disclaimed intention to increase, are not included within this authorization and increases on them are not found to have been justified. As increased as above specified, to the extent indicated, but only to that extent, the resulting general basis of rates and charges of the carriers described will be just and reasonable."

Subsequent to the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the railroads have requested the various state commissions to authorize similar increases in the intrastate rates. A few of the state commissions have authorized such increases without the formality of a hearing, but the majority thereof have assigned the applications of the railroads for hearings.

Some of the truck lines, particularly those in the Eastern District, established the same increases on interstate traffic effective March 28. The truck lines in the Western District, broadly speaking, have published like increases to become effective on various dates. The increased rates of the truck lines in the southern portion of the Mountain-Pacific District are published to become effective April 8. No doubt the truck lines will, whenever possible, establish like increases on intrastate rates.

Hearings held in Denver, Colorado, on increased intrastate railroad freight rates have met protests of Colorado livestock shippers and other groups. Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, filed brief in opposition to the raise. He was backed up by brief filed by the American National Live Stock Association.

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MARKETS

COURSE OF MARKET PUZZLING

BY JAMES E. POOLE

REFLECTING DEPRECIATION IN all commodities, live-stock prices slumped during March, irregularly but definitely. Early in April the cattle market was limp, every slight increase in supply emphasizing a weak undertone. A previous sharp decline in live muttons heralded the subsequent course of events. Dressed meat trade, ignoring the campaign to stimulate consumption, showed marked signs of contracting volume. All through March favorable symptoms were rare. Whenever supply was slightly increased the buying side took control. Only by curtailing loading was the country able to check declines. Even then recovery was feeble. Killers' constant and stereotyped complaint that processing was unprofitable met contradiction when they bought freely whenever supply was sharply curtailed. But from every wholesale meat market came reports of sales resistance, especially industrial centers where unemployment figures were impressive. Viewed from any angle, the outlook was unpromising, and only a conservative attitude on the part of feeders prevented serious slumps. Hogs were at all times equal to a creditable performance. At intervals the live mutton market indulged in an inexplicable splurge. The course of the entire trade from week to week was puzzling.

Long-Fed Supply Reduced

March reduced the visible supply of long-fed steers back in feeders' hands, most of them having been acquired last fall during a high-cost replacement campaign. Each week's receipts whittled down the visible supply from that quarter, although the residue was generally regarded as ample for the ensuing 90 days, if not longer. On sessions when supply proved slightly in excess of requirements the buying side had no difficulty in forcing declines of 25 to 35 cents per cwt.; reduced loading in the country partially repaired the preceding break, but always the trend was downward. Fortunately the percentage of heavy kosher steers weighing 1,300 to 1,500 pounds was limited. Otherwise the \$10 quotation would have been erased, and, as it was, few bullocks could be sold above \$9.50, a spread of \$8.25 to \$9.25 taking a large share of the cornfed cattle weighing 1,000 to 1,250 pounds during the month. That feeders had ignored quality during the replacement period last fall was indicated by a large proportion of plain and coarse heavy steers selling at \$8.50 to \$8.75. Yearlings demonstrated popularity, the pick of a limited supply of

good-to-choice 900- to 1,050-pound steers selling at \$9.25 to \$9.65. In many instances fat steers with weight sold \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt. below cost last fall, owners concluding to take the market, clean up, and start with a new set. At the end of March many feed-lots had been reduced to less than seasonal complement.

Cheap Cuts in Demand

Consumer demand for "cheap" cuts has been demonstrated right along, steers selling under \$8 getting early access to the scales. Long strings of silage-fed cattle selling at \$7.50 to \$8 per cwt. changed hands daily before better cattle elicited bids. South Texas was not a serious competitor this year; both packers and butchers on a restricted scale were always on the alert for light steers selling at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per cwt.; and the country was always in the market for fleshy warmed-up cattle selling at \$7.50 to \$8.50 per cwt., provided they carried sufficient quality to justify another visit to the feed-lot. This resulted in narrow price ranges continuously, weight and merit exerting scant influence. Taking the March market from start to finish, a range of \$7.50 to \$9.50 bought the bulk of the steer cattle reaching Chicago; sales above \$10 were rare, only an occasional carload earning \$10.25 to \$10.50 per cwt. Eastern competition on finished steers was usually inactive, one buyer frequently making the market. Pennsylvania feed-lots furnished Atlantic seaboard markets with a constant supply of beef all through March and will repeat during April, reducing shipping orders at Chicago and other western markets. New York frequently took steers selling in the middle price bracket to get away from cost on foot—a condition operating to the disadvantage of quality and weight in combination.

Heifer Trade Good

Heifer trade was on a healthier basis than the major, or steer, market. When steer prices broke 50 cents per cwt. heifers frequently held steady or lost little ground. Usually the daily heifer supply was cleared before buyers intimated readiness to bid on steers. This demand maintained a healthy market for young female cattle at \$8 to \$8.75 on the bulk of the cornfed supply, short-feds realizing \$7 to \$7.75 and light dairy bred heifers \$6.50 to \$6.75. Evidence that the winter-fed crop of heifers had been picked early accumulated as condition deteriorated and numbers were reduced. A specialty trade in heifer beef has developed in recent years that insures continuous demand, coming mainly from city butchers and country butchers who are

able to sell the product by personal solicitation, clearing their coolers with reasonable celerity, while purveyors of steer beef encounter trouble. Scarcity of heifers this year accentuated demand for low-grade steers not adapted to feeder requirements, and maintaining values at higher levels would have been popular otherwise. An incredible quantity of bovine trash, both steers and heifers, can always be moved at this season at prices relatively higher than can be obtained for bullocks with merit. Killers found the usual broad outlet this season for low cost bovine product, especially that of common heifers.

Cows Ready Sale

An increasing proportion of cow beef produced in the dairy districts is being consumed locally, which accounts for scarcity at the central markets. Prices have been well maintained, this branch of the trade being immune to violent price swings in the case of steers. Drovers of grain-fed cows have disappeared, prices obtainable not paying feed cost. An occasional fat beef-bred cow sells up to \$7.50, a small percentage of fat cows at \$6.25 to \$7, and the rank and file of dairy cows at \$5.50 to \$6 per cwt. Under present conditions cow trade is transacted largely at interior markets, speculators and local butchers handling the bulk of the business. Dairy yard refuse, vernacularly known as "canners and cutters," possess a stable trading basis at \$4 to \$5.25, only inferior and shelly cows selling under \$4. Low-grade cows have been ready sale at these prices right along, killers scouring the country for additional supplies. Depleted freezer stocks are largely responsible for common cow activity. Sausage material, regardless of the source, has sold readily, bologna bulls earning \$6 to \$6.50 per cwt., beef and bologna types selling at practically the same levels.

Canadian cattle have exerted no influence on domestic prices. Chicago received a few loads that sold at \$8.50 to \$8.60 per cwt., obviously insufficient to pay running expense and duty. A year ago supply from that source was exerting a potent influence on the market.

Swine Trade Weak

Hogs broke sharply during March despite continued light slaughter. When the top at Chicago was flirting with \$10 bullish opinion dominated the entire trade, but by the end of the month this had vanished. By successive stages prices declined until drove cost was well under \$9, and that price took the pick of the crop. Stocks of meat and lard increased, eastern orders did not materialize at western markets, and the coterie of big packers inaugurated a vigorous bear campaign. On the break light hogs suffered severely, heavy butchers least, the spread between the two grades narrowing. At the bottom of the decline choice light and heavy

butcher hogs were only 25 to 40 cents per cwt. apart. A phase of swine trade, worth noting this winter, has been liberal supplies at markets east of Chicago, curtailing shipping orders at that point. On every 10- to 15-cent break packers have bought freely, keeping out of the market on even slight bulges. The speculative arm of the trade, formerly a powerful factor, has dwindled until its influence is insignificant, frequently packers get 30 to 40 per cent of single days' receipts at Chicago. Packing sows have sold close to barrows at \$7.25 to \$8 per cwt. Swine trade went into April on a weak basis, with prospects of further depreciation.

Lambs Recover Loss

Western lamb feeders ran into a brief period of prosperity early in March, followed by a crash and subsequent recovery. At the high spot early in the month \$9.40 to \$9.60 took the bulk of fed lambs. The resultant decline established an \$8 to \$8.25 trade within a few days, but at the bottom of the break \$8.50 to \$9 was temporarily established as a trading basis. Shorn lambs broke 75 cents from the high point, selling down to \$7.60 from \$8.35, or 75 cents to \$1 below woolled stock. Further declines in wool reduced buyers' credit to \$1.40 per cwt., live weight, or \$2.20 less than at the corresponding period of 1937. Dressed lamb trade at the Atlantic seaboard was largely responsible for erratic live market conditions, varying \$2 to \$3 per cwt., wholesale, within a few days. Whenever shippers come to the Chicago market for 25 per cent of a one-day lamb supply a sharp advance is inevitable. Between Chicago and Missouri River points the price spread continues narrow.

The course of March live-stock markets corresponded with expectancy and reflected developments in other agricultural commodity trading spheres. The buying interest was always aggressively bearish; favorable reactions were brief and the trend of prices lower, especially in the case of cattle and hogs. At the inception of April fat cattle were \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt. lower than at the corresponding period of 1937, hogs \$1.25 lower, and lambs \$3 per cwt. lower.

HIDE TRADE UNDERTONE WEAK

BY J. E. P.

HIDE TRADE IS STILL SLUMPY. Futures are considerably under packer asking levels. Packer hides are quoted at 8½ to 10½ cents, although this is mainly a nominal basis. Packer cow hides sell at 7½ to 8 cents. Demand for country hides is meager at 5½ to 5¾ cents. Packers are not forcing sales and country handlers are disposed to hold.

Production of spring shoes has been

about 33 per cent less than last year, forcing heavy-leather prices to new low levels, this, in turn, carrying the hide market downward.

Sole leather has reflected the general decline in shoe production by a 35 per cent curtailment. Orders have been filled from inventory, prices dropping meanwhile to a nominal basis—the lowest since early in 1935. From the shoe manufacturer's viewpoint, the decline in heavy-leather prices is encouraging, as it paves the way for resumption of operations on a volume production basis.

Packers are credited with booking some hides to their own tanning accounts, as they are still carrying heavy stocks. The Big Four is endeavoring definitely to establish values on a basis in line with futures.

FEDERAL WOOL LOAN RELIEVES STRESS

BY J. E. P.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN Washington have overshadowed interest in wool. The Department of Agriculture has announced a \$50,000,000 loan that will enable growers to get over a period of stress, and as a result the market shows slight activity. Better combing lengths of fine and half-blood territory wools are in modest demand, inquiry extending to 12-months Texas wools. Trade opinion is that the slump has run its course, and while no marked activity or substantially higher prices are probable a firming tendency is gratifying.

Dealers are watching the New York top market for trends. That arm of the trade shows no definite movement, merely marking time. Speculative interest is lacking, fluctuations are narrow, gains and losses alternating. However, the government loan has had a stabilizing influence. Without financial assistance from that quarter, the slump would probably have continued. Since the loan was announced, volume of trading in the speculative market has trebled; in the spot market only scattered lines of domestic wools are moving.

Raw Wool Down

Mills still hesitate about replenishing inventories, raw wool prices sagging to the lowest levels since May, 1935. However, wool sales are lagging behind general retail trade, indicating the extent to which invisible inventories in the hands of the consuming public has accumulated during the past three years.

Current wool purchases are restricted to urgent orders at slightly higher prices than 30 days ago. The nature of this business is indicated by the size of the transactions and necessity for prompt delivery. Mills are determined not to accumulate wool until the future trend of the market can be at least approxi-

mated. Occasionally buyers make efforts to sound out the market for territory wools. Graded French combing fine territories are selling in a limited way at 63 to 66 cents, scoured, Boston basis. Half-blood territory is selling in small quantities, three-eighths blood changing hands at 57 to 59 cents. Moderate quantities of quarter-blood territory have been sold at 52 to 53 cents, scoured basis.

Texas wools show strength at 63 to 67 cents, scoured basis, for 12-months, and 59 to 62 cents for eight-months. Fleece wools in the grease are realizing 27 to 29 cents for fine delaine; 26 to 28 cents for three-eighths. Few buyers are in the market for grease wools but pay asking prices on limited packages. Traders call attention to the fact that wool tops have held steady while values of other commodities have declined sharply. Foreign markets are easy.

No Drastic Tariff Cut

That Secretary Hull will not countenance any drastic slash in tariff rates on wool or manufactures of wool in reaching an agreement on the proposed British trade treaty is a promise, although there is a possibility of disturbing the balance between wool, tops yarns, and goods.

Mills are expectant of appraising the new western clip at less than current nominal quotations; eastern dealers are inclined to try out the market. In the goods market sales of new fall lines of wool goods are slow.

The government loan is timely and will ease a situation that has caused concern. AAA officials emphasize the fact that it is not intended to fix prices, but is a marketing loan designed to protect wool producers against the effect of unfavorable conditions in the wool industry while the 1938 clip is moving to market. They said study of the wool situation indicates that present wool prices are unduly depressed and that the

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rates established would enable producers to market their wool in an orderly manner and at better prices than they would receive if they had to sell all their wool at shearing time.

In view of the current situation in the wool producing and wool manufacturing industry, the wool loans are naturally on a substantially higher basis than would be available to wool producers through their usual credit channels. With these loans, a wool producer can obtain enough money to pay his current expenses and at the same time take advantage of any better prices during the remainder of the marketing season.

The loans are to be made for a 10-month period, with the final maturity date set at May 31, 1939. The loans will bear interest at 4 per cent and will be without recourse.

GIVE COLTS A GOOD START THE FIRST YEAR

FEEDING EXPERIMENTS WITH colts at the Michigan experiment station indicate that it is advisable to supply not less than one-half pound of grain daily per 100 pounds of weight, to keep the young animals in a thrifty condition and growing, we read in *Wallace's Farmer*. The grain in the Michigan tests consisted of equal parts of oats and ear corn by weight.

"Best results, from the standpoint of gain, condition, cost, and advantage in marketing were obtained by feeding liberally the first winter, that is, allowing as much as two pounds of grain daily per 100 pounds of body weight, then giving the colts a conservative ration thereafter, that is, about one pound of grain daily per 100 pounds of body weight. Along with the grain in a liberal ration, the colts were given about one pound of clover or alfalfa hay per hundredweight daily for the first winter. The same rate of hay feeding, plus access to oat straw, was allowed the colts that were provided with the conservative ration.

"The colts fed a limited ration of grain to working age—that is, only about one-half pound of grain daily per 100 pounds of weight—lacked condition and weight. Since weight and good condition are essential in draft animals, these colts were the least desirable for sale at any time during the experiment."

FEEDSTUFFS PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on April 5 at \$22 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices, carlot, on April 1 at Omaha were: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$18 to \$19; No. 1, \$16 to \$17.50; standard leafy, \$14 to \$15.50; standard, \$12.50 to \$14; No. 2, \$11 to \$12; No. 3, \$9 to \$10.50; upland prairie—No. 1, \$11.50 to \$12; No. 2, \$10 to \$11; No. 3, \$7 to \$9; midland prairie—No. 1, \$10 to \$11; No. 2, \$7.50 to \$9.50; mixed hay, No. 1, \$11 to \$12; No. 2, \$10 to \$11; No. 3, \$7 to \$9.50.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

RECEIPTS—	February		First Two Months	
	1938	1937	1938	1937
Cattle*	891,786	898,678	2,049,317	2,070,752
Calves	418,691	444,399	908,448	963,446
Hogs	1,961,663	2,084,350	4,855,113	4,584,660
Sheep	1,712,756	1,590,923	3,667,727	3,654,240
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	312,607	298,559	703,765	704,593
Calves	130,794	119,884	296,757	275,514
Hogs	625,654	626,747	1,440,957	1,375,159
Sheep	663,363	657,872	1,456,158	1,522,945
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	112,063	99,782	265,020	251,571
Calves	25,196	20,965	59,759	52,934
Hogs	38,940	27,865	74,174	56,673
Sheep	82,439	78,155	177,332	192,755
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	716,147	708,221	1,545,949	1,575,686
Calves	398,116	437,244	818,212	920,796
Hogs	2,833,046	2,842,488	7,034,034	6,361,910
Sheep	1,423,533	1,315,303	2,975,550	3,015,303

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Mar. 1, 1938†	Feb. 1, 1938	Mar. 1, 1937	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	43,484,000	45,313,000	135,256,000	71,325,000
Cured beef*	13,026,000	14,056,000	32,182,000	21,856,000
Lamb and mutton	3,496,000	3,294,000	9,807,000	4,122,000
Frozen pork	212,111,000	200,671,000	325,036,000	196,662,000
Dry salt pork*	86,900,000	83,330,000	84,190,000	87,874,000
Pickled pork*	283,359,000	270,027,000	366,462,000	362,860,000
Miscellaneous	77,172,000	81,179,000	126,233,000	79,409,000
Total meats	719,912,000	697,870,000	1,079,166,000	824,108,000
Lard	116,856,000	99,318,000	202,476,000	125,125,000
Frozen poultry	100,518,000	115,105,000	157,858,000	108,175,000
Creamery butter	20,930,000	31,211,000	20,678,000	17,088,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	2,808,000	3,045,000	1,305,000	1,266,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

COMPARATIVE LIVE STOCK PRICES

	Apr. 1, 1938	Mar. 1, 1938	Apr. 1, 1937
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$9.00-9.90	\$8.75-10.00	\$13.75-15.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	11.00-14.25
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	8.75-9.75	8.50-9.75	13.50-15.00
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.00-9.00	7.75-8.75	10.00-13.75
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750 lbs. up)	7.25-8.25	6.75-8.00	8.25-11.00*
Fed Young Steers—Good-Choice	7.75-9.50	7.50-9.25	10.00-14.00
Heifers—Good-Choice	7.75-9.50	7.50-8.75	9.00-13.00
Cows—Good	6.00-6.50	6.25-6.50	7.00-8.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	7.50-11.00	8.50-11.00	
Calves—Good-Choice	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	7.00-9.00	6.50-7.75	7.75-10.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com-Med	6.00-7.00	5.50-6.50	6.50-7.75
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-250 lbs.)	8.60-8.95	9.10-9.50	9.75-10.25
Lambs—Good-Choice	7.60-9.00	8.00-8.75	12.00-12.50
Ewes—Good-Choice	4.10-5.25	4.00-4.75	6.00-7.00

*900 lbs. up.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

	Apr. 1, 1938	Mar. 1, 1938	Apr. 1, 1937
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$14.00-15.00	\$14.00-15.00	\$18.50-19.50
Steers—Good	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	15.00-18.50
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	14.00-15.00	13.50-15.00	17.00-19.50
Steers—Good	13.00-14.00	12.50-14.00	15.00-18.00
Yearling Steers—Choice	14.00-15.00	13.50-14.50	17.00-18.50
Yearling Steers—Good	13.00-14.00	12.50-13.50	15.00-17.00
Cows—Good	11.50-12.00	11.50-12.00	12.00-13.00
Vealers—Choice	13.00-14.00	15.00-16.00	13.50-14.50
Vealers—Good	12.00-13.00	13.50-15.00	12.50-13.50
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lambs—Choice (45 lbs. down)	16.50-18.00	16.00-17.50	18.50-20.00
Lambs—Good	15.50-17.00	15.00-16.50	17.50-19.00
Ewes—Good	9.50-11.00	9.00-10.00	11.50-12.50
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	17.50-19.50	18.00-20.00	18.00-20.50

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

FOREIGN

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

THE CORPORATION OF ARGENTINE Meat Producers, of which Argentine cattle sellers are shareholders, is making contracts for construction of a \$10,000,000 meat packing and freezing plant, to be built in Buenos Aires under control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Foot-and-mouth disease has broken out on the Portuguese East African border. The outbreak is reported as a "bad one." A policy of slaughter of infected and in-contact animals has been put in effect.

New rate of duty on many classes of leather imports into Mexico is 40.3 per cent ad valorem until April 30, 1938, after which the duty will be 23.3 per cent ad valorem. Approximately 50 per cent of leather imports into Mexico come from the United States.

Statistics of the International Labor Office at Geneva show that of 865,000,000 persons "gainfully employed" in the world, 550,000,000 are working at agriculture. These figures, experts point out, indicate that agriculture represents more than 60 per cent of the economic activity of mankind.

Canada's free freight policy on live stock moving from drought areas into districts where feed is more plentiful has been extended to May 31.

Steps are being taken by a government controlled meat packing and export organization in Lithuania to expand exports of meat to the United States. Lithuanian exports of smoked and fresh meats to the United States in 1937 represented 29 per cent in value of her total exports to the United States.

Cattle ranchers and live-stock buyers in Camaguey Province, Cuba, have undertaken the organization of a co-operative stock yards, slaughterhouse, and meat packing and refrigeration plant in Havana. Stockmen hope thereby to obtain a greater share of the spread which exists between the price of beef on the hoof and existing meat prices, also to educate the Cuban public to eat refrigerated meats, to develop an export market in the United States and in England for chilled beef, and to build up a cold storage reserve for the purpose of price stabilization.

New laws aimed at prevention and suppression of animal diseases and increasing resistance of stock through control of breeding are being formulated in

Germany. The most widely spread cattle disease in Germany, it is reported, is tuberculosis, estimated to affect 30 per cent of the cattle, which causes an estimated annual loss of 1,500,000,000 marks.

Under regulation of the Latvian Ministry of Agriculture, importation into Latvia of animals, animal products, and fodder can be made only with permission of the Latvian veterinary department.

Pasteurization of all milk destined for human consumption in Sweden's cities, towns, and municipalities is provided for under a law to become effective in July. The regulation will not at present apply to all hamlets and villages which may not have modern plants available.

The Iranian Parliament recently approved a law designed to improve and regulate the agriculture of the country in conformity with principles of national planning. The principal objective of the law is to secure maximum crop yield. In order to accomplish that objective, it appears that landowners and cultivators will be obliged to make any improvements that the authorities deem necessary or advisable.

Ireland's Bacon Marketing Board will give free to producers 10,000 young breeding sows to increase the number and quality of pigs in the country. Hog slaughter in Ireland declined 12 per cent in 1937.

A South African correspondent of the Pastoral Review (Melbourne) writes about experimental work "to produce hybrid crosses between ordinary cattle and the Eland (the largest of our antelopes) and the native buffalo with a view to producing an animal or animals that will inherit the immunity to diseases which the wild fauna possess in a large measure. . . . Attempts with either of the animals mentioned to reproduce a hybrid offspring under properly controlled conditions have failed. The experiment has been abandoned."

In Transvaal, South Africa, farmers sometimes meet by telephone. An account of a 'phone session there is given in the *Chicago Daily Drovers Journal*: "As the weather was threatening, . . . the chairman of the association arranged to have all the farmers connected from their homes to the local exchange. By eight o'clock everything was ready, and one long ring called the thirty farmers to the session. The meeting proceeded under the ordinary rules of debate. . . . Resolutions were moved and passed.

Respect for the chair was kept by the simple process of the chairman ringing in the ears of the audiences. The meeting lasted one hour and ten minutes."

MORE HOGS THAN YEAR AGO BUT PORK STOCKS SMALLER

FARMERS WILL MARKET MORE hogs during the remainder of the hog-marketing year that ends September 30 than went to market during these months last year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The larger supply of market hogs is to a considerable extent offset by the smaller storage stocks of pork and lard on hand, it was pointed out. Consumer demand in the spring and summer, however, will be less favorable than last year.

The report says: Changes in hog prices this spring and summer will be more nearly normal than they were a year earlier. Some weakness will develop in late spring and early summer as marketings of fall pigs increase. After midsummer, prices may advance. This rise, however, may be limited by continued weak consumer demand for meats.

Forecast of the bureau is that the spring crop will be larger than that of 1937.



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ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

FEED ON WESTERN RANGES AND pastures is good, except in the Great Plains areas that were dry last year, new feed prospects are the best in several years, and cattle and sheep have wintered the best since 1931, according to the Denver office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Range and pasture prospects are the best since 1931. The Great Plains area that had little old feed following the 1937 drought has good topsoil moisture, although subsoil moisture is short in many areas. Condition of ranges is 82 per cent of normal, compared with 79 last month, 73 a year ago, and 78.9 for the 1928-37 average. (Condition of ranges was erroneously reported last month; the figures should have been 79 per cent of normal for March 1, compared with 77 the previous month, 67 for March a year ago, and 76.7 for 1928-37.)

Cattle in good flesh except for a few in the northern Great Plains sections. Winter losses have been light, with possibly a few local losses in recent storms. Sheep wintered in the best condition since 1931, with ewe bands in very good condition. Winter losses have been light, but severe storms late in March and April resulted in a few local losses in Montana and Wyoming, and a little loss of shorn sheep in Idaho.

Detail by states follows:

Arizona.—Ranges improved; feed and browse well started in south; very good spring feed prospects in north; cattle and sheep making good gains.

California.—Additional March statewide rain further improved pasture and range, particularly in southern half of state; excessive rainfall, cool weather, and some flooded lowlands prevented maximum range development; soil moisture condition for pasturage far above normal; prospects favorable; late range areas well soaked; heavy snow pack in mountains; excess water in some valleys and spring range feed delayed but summer prospects good; most stock doing well in low and intermediate elevations, somewhat set back by continued wet weather; growth of early lambs delayed by excess rain, but most lambs should be fat before June; comparatively large grass feed supplies from early ranges May to August.

Colorado.—Above normal March moisture on ranges; heavy precipitation in western and mountain areas; light moisture in northeastern sections; hay and rough feed generally adequate but scarce in east-central and southeastern areas, cattle and sheep in strong condition.

Idaho.—Moisture best in years; spring feed prospects good; warm weather needed for new feed; hay and other feeds generally adequate; cattle and sheep in

very good condition but suffered, along with lambs and shorn sheep, by late March storms.

Kansas (western).—Early grass prospects best in several years; wheat furnishing abundant grazing; cattle in fair to good condition and doing well on wheat pasture; losses light and confined mostly to wheat poisoning deaths; calf crop normal.

Montana.—Old range feed fair to good and range feed prospects excellent; cattle and sheep condition very favorable; few thin cattle in northeastern drought counties; losses light, but severe late March and early April storms are threat.

Nebraska (western).—March rain improved ranges; spring grass outlook good, except in drought sections; generally favorable situation in sand hills; cattle condition good; calf prospects normal; losses light but there is early April storm threat.

Nevada.—Ranges good; good moisture and water for desert ranges; favorable spring and summer feed prospects; cattle and sheep in very good condition; good lamb and calf prospects.

New Mexico.—Old range feed generally good; soil moisture improved; new feed prospects good, but feed starting slowly; few dry spots in southwest; cattle and sheep wintered in above average condition; good lamb and calf crop prospects; few sales old wool but no contracting of new clip.

North Dakota.—Ranges open and old feed supply good; feed short in some central and western areas and light supplemental feed necessary until new feed available; stock in good condition; losses light; good lamb and calf prospect.

Oklahoma.—Ranges and pastures improved; best feed prospects in several years; wheat afforded good pastures in recent weeks and feed supplies ample; moisture very good except in parts of Panhandle; cattle in strong condition and making rapid gains; desire exists to restock; milk cows in good demand.

Oregon.—Old range feed good; new feed made slow growth; soil moisture very good; hay and other feeds ample

except in local areas; cattle and sheep generally in very good condition; losses light, but stormy late March weather caused some shrink.

South Dakota (western).—Ample old feed on ranges and new feed starting; rain needed; feed grain supplies generally ample, except in northeastern and south-central areas; cattle and sheep wintered well and cows and ewes in good flesh except in some south-central counties; losses light; calf and lamb crop prospects above average.

Texas.—Spring and summer feed prospects very good and above average; soil conditions good; new feed growth early; cattle and sheep in best condition in several years; record lamb crop in sight; some cattle sold for immediate delivery, but contracting for future limited; considerable held over wool sold, but little of new clip contracted; most feed-lot cattle and sheep marketed.

Utah.—Range feed generally good; moisture ample for new feed; good feed and ample water on most desert ranges; cold and storms delayed new feed and caused some live-stock shrink in some sections; cattle and sheep wintered well; lamb and calf crop prospects favorable.

Washington.—Lower ranges and pastures very good; moisture ample; summer prospects very good; cattle and sheep in very good condition; ewes in good flesh; early lambs making good gains; March weather favorable except for the late storms; losses light.

Wyoming.—High March winds damaged ranges and pastures; surface moisture conditions and prospects for spring grass good; feed generally plentiful, except in few local areas; cows and ewes in strong condition and calf and lamb prospects good; losses light but recent storms threaten some loss.

INCREASED INTEREST IN CONTRACT FEEDING

THE SHARP DECLINE IN LIVE-stock prices the past five months has again brought about an increased interest on the part of stockmen in contract feeding, says C. G. Randell, in the March issue of *Agricultural Situation*.

Contract pasturing of live stock has been in operation in this country for approximately 50 years, but it was not until 1930 that contract feeding was attempted in large volume, Mr. Randell says.

In contract feeding the grower agrees to supply the live stock to be fed and the feeder the feed, equipment, and labor for fattening, he explains. In general, the grower risks his live stock and the feeder his feed and labor. The contract sets forth the various provisions for the apportionment of freight and other marketing expenses and the distribution of proceeds. Some contracts provide that animals will be grazed usually for a specified period. These are known as pasture contracts.

Contract feeding reached its peak in 1934, according to Mr. Randell. Avail-



able figures show that in this year 575,000 lambs and ewes and 50,000 cattle were fed under contract. Co-operative live-stock marketing associations supervised about 40 per cent of this volume.

The increase in contract feeding from 1930 to 1934 was brought about by curtailment of live-stock credit, decline in the price of feeder and fat stock, and relatively low values of grain and roughage. The drought in 1934 gave great impetus to the contract feeding movement that year. Following 1934, prices improved and credit became more plentiful, with the result that contract feeding declined.

Contract pasturing did not follow the course of contract feeding the past three years, according to Mr. Randell. This method of handling stock has continued to play an important part in live-stock operations, he says, citing as an example the work done by the Texas Live Stock Marketing Association. This association contracts grass for a large number of its ranchmen members each year. The cattle are moved from Texas to the Flint Hills of Kansas or the Osage country of Oklahoma in the early spring and pastured until fall when they are shipped to terminal markets.

MORE EARLY LAMBS BUT PRICES LOWER

THE EARLY SPRING LAMB CROP was reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of March 1 as at least 15 per cent larger than the small early crop in 1937. Condition of early lambs was exceptionally good in all areas—much above last year and average.

Weather and feed conditions had been favorable in nearly all the early lambing states—a sharp contrast with the situation in 1937 in some of these states.

In central California—the most important early lamb state—the winter has been mild and feed conditions exceptionally good. Similar conditions prevailed in the other Pacific states and Idaho. In the southeastern states, where the winter has been easy and feed supplies abundant, the proportion of ewes lambing by March 1 was about average and much larger than the unusually small number last year. Feed and weather in Texas were reported favorable for development of early lambs and fattening of yearling lambs to be marketed grass fat.

Although conditions indicate materially larger marketing of early lambs before July 1 than last year, marketings of grass-fat yearling lambs from Texas are expected to be considerably smaller than record marketings of last year.

A lower price average for spring lambs than last year is expected by the bureau. Consumer demand for meats is weaker, it was stated. Lower prices of wool and pelts also were indicated.

California weather conditions, according to report on April 2, had "hardened up the available crop of early spring lambs . . . the out-of-state movement is generally two weeks behind last year."

Lambs left in feed-lots of northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley, and Scottsbluff sections on April 2 numbered 515,000, compared with 405,000 a year ago. Since January 1, the three sections had shipped 4,617 cars of lambs, compared with 4,009 cars for last year. Shipments from the San Luis Valley and Western Slope sections were about completed.

SPRING CATTLE MOVEMENT FROM SOUTHWEST SMALLER

THE SPRING MOVEMENT OF CATTLE from the Southwest (Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona) will be considerably smaller than the very heavy movement of a year ago, according to the Denver office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Conditions indicate considerably smaller shipments from Texas, a small decrease from Arizona, and some increase in the New Mexico shipments from those in the spring of 1937. Last spring's shipments were the heaviest in 13 years of record and equaled the heavy movement of 1925. Final movement will depend on northern demand and outlet, local demand, and prices. All three states have less cattle than a year ago, following generally heavy marketing during 1937. Spring shipments (March 1 to June 30) from the three states in 1937 were 1,092,000 head, compared with 784,000 in 1936.

Range feed and soil moisture conditions are much better than a year ago and above average in Texas and New Mexico, with feed improving rapidly in Arizona. Cattle are in very good condition and in above average flesh in Texas and New Mexico. With generally ample feed supplies, it will be possible to hold cattle, and present indications are that the movement to Kansas and Oklahoma pastures will be smaller than last spring.

BLUE STEM AND OSAGE PASTURE LEASING SLUGGISH

PASTURE LEASING HAS BEEN slow in the Blue Stem and Osage pasture sections of Kansas and Oklahoma, according to a report of the Denver regional live-stock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Fewer cattle will be shipped in than last year. Lease prices for the better pastures have been about the same as last season.

Pasture conditions and feed prospects are excellent in the Osage country, but only fair to good in the Blue Stem sections, where many pastures are weedy. Cattle will move into the Osage country fairly early, but may be delayed into the Blue Stem section due to slow leasing.

About 62 per cent of the Kansas pastures were leased by April 1, compared with 70 per cent last year. Demand from Texas operators has been much lighter than a year ago, with a tendency to lease the better pastures.

Bulk of the leases for cows and steers are \$6 to \$9 per head, and \$4 to \$6 for young cattle. Acreage guarantees, slightly higher than last year's and the largest on record, mostly average 5 to 8 acres per head for cows and steers and 4 to 6 acres for young cattle.

In the Osage pastures leasing has been active, with 86 per cent of the available pastures leased, compared with 87 per cent a year ago. Most leases for steers and cows were \$5 to \$7.50 per head, and young cattle \$4 to \$5.50. Acreage guarantees are smaller than last year due to excellent feed conditions—4 to 8 acres for steers and cows and 3 to 6 for young stock.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

SEVEREST GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION this year, according to government experts, may be in central and eastern part of the Dakotas, Iowa, and eastern Wyoming. Mormon cricket eggs are numerous in northern Nevada; the hessian fly has been found in some early

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seeded wheat in Missouri, southeastern Kansas, part of Indiana and Ohio, and eastern Pennsylvania; and the squash bug seems to be more numerous than usual in Minnesota and Iowa, it is stated. . . . Various sources suggest control of hoppers by castor beans, but information as to effectiveness is scant; and Epsom salts, but it has been found useless. The only practical control is by poisoning, begun early in the season. . . . On March 3 the President signed a bill appropriating \$2,000,000 for a campaign against hoppers, Mormon crickets, and chinch bugs.

National forest cattle grazing fees will be higher in 1938. The system of determining fees was established in 1931—a so-called normal year. Any change in cattle prices from the 1931 level affects the grazing fees the following year. The fee this year is up because last year's cattle prices were up.

Eggs containing as much vitamin D as three teaspoons of cod-liver oil are being introduced at Iowa State College through experiments by Dr. H. B. Thomas, animal chemistry research professor. The hens are fed irradiated yeast.

"Only sound potatoes should be fed to live stock," is the consensus of those conducting experiments at three Idaho live-stock feeding experiment stations. Generally, it was found that potatoes are worth about 22 to 25 per cent as much as grain, by weight. Each ton of potatoes fed to steers with alfalfa hay and barley replaced 906 pounds of hay and 186 pounds of barley. The potatoes were fed raw, coarsely chopped, in amounts from 15 to 20 pounds per head daily.

RANCH: 8,140 deeded, 2,040 school land. 2,000 acres subirrigated, cutting 2,000 tons hay. Well improved, Cherry county; loading station 1 mile. Carry 1,000 cows or 1,600 steers. Only \$7.75 acre deeded; carrying \$35,000 federal loan. C. O. Rosenberger, Hemingford, Nebraska.

FOR SALE OR LEASE—31,000 acres privately owned range land. Abundance of water. One thousand acres cultivated lands. Winter and summer range for 5,000 head of cattle. Address: Preston Nutter Corporation, 105 E. So. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah.

HARDY recleaned Alfalfa seed, \$13.00; Grimm Alfalfa, \$14.40; White Sweet Clover, \$5.40; Red Clover, \$16.80. All 60-lb. bushel, track Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA. Unexcelled for general farming, early truck, dairying, poultry, and live stock. Lands at attractive prices. For information and free copy "The Southland," write E. J. Hoddy, General Development Agent, Dept. B-14, Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, Louisville, Ky.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

Tractors now on farms probably number but very little more than in 1930, according to Wayne Dinsmore, of the Horse and Mule Association of America. He puts the total on January 1, 1938, at 939,862.

Department of Agriculture figures show that husbands spend nearly as much for clothes as do wives. Hubbies averaged \$52 a year and wives \$56, a survey in several midwestern cities disclosed.

Mohair, including kid hair, production in 1937 in the seven leading mohair producing states was 16,558,000 pounds—572,000 pounds larger than in 1936 and larger than in any of the preceding four years. Number of goats and kids clipped in 1937 totaled 3,795,000 head. Hair clipped per goat averaged 4.4 pounds.

Farm foreclosure sales were nearly a fourth less during the last quarter of 1937 than during the last quarter of 1936 and 40 per cent less than the corresponding period of 1934, according to Governor W. I. Myers of the Farm Credit Administration. Practically all classes of mortgage lenders showed a smaller number of farm foreclosures. Insurance companies had the largest decline; federal land banks were next.

The number of chickens on farms January 1, 1938, is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at 387,251,000, compared with 420,257,000 last year.

Two hundred national farm loan associations in the ninth farm credit district have completed consolidation into 74 new organizations during the past 18 months, according to the Federal Land Bank of Wichita. Chief advantage of the consolidations is the relatively stronger financial conditions of the resulting unit. As many as seven associations have joined in some of the consolidations.

Slaughter of cattle runs in the neighborhood of 33 per cent of the number of cattle on farms January 1 of the year; sheep and lamb slaughter, about 39 per cent of such number; hogs, about 117 per cent.

Mechanical Plucker Corporation, of New York, is getting into the manufacture of a mechanical plucker which will remove feathers at the rate of one complete chicken or duck per minute, according to *Business Week*.

Work now going on in numerous state agricultural experiment stations is aimed at developing simple, low-cost methods of chemical preservation of grasses and clovers, as well as other legumes, so that they retain the high feeding value they have.

Ample supply of feed per grain-consuming animal is in prospect for the 1938-39 season, according to the bureau. Though a below-average production of feed grains—assuming a normal growing season—is indicated by March 1 planting prospects, the smaller production will probably be largely offset by larger carryovers. . . . The bureau in March looked for no marked change during the next few months in the general level of farm products prices received by farmers. Continued increase in exports of farm products was forecast.

Vegetarians of the country have been informed that vegetables alone are quite poor producers of energy. Dr. E. B. Forbes, Dr. R. W. Swift, and Dr. A. Black, of the Pennsylvania State College, told the American Institute of Nutrition meeting recently that a comparison of six different diets showed that vegetables alone "are lowest of all in net energy and the efficiency of the use of protein."

STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

THE EFFECT OF MECHANICAL PROCESSING OF FEEDS ON THE MASTICATION AND RUMINATION OF STEERS, by C. H. Kick, Paul Gerlaugh, A. F. Schalk, and E. A. Silver. Contribution from Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, and reprinted from the *Journal of Agricultural Research*. Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 5 cents. "If mechanical processing of feeds is of any value other than increasing palatability or decreasing waste," says the booklet, "it would appear that it must certainly save the animal some energy in the processes of mastication and rumination. If this be true, the energy required for the so-called work of digestion would be reduced and the metabolizable energy so conserved should be available for production purposes."

SHEEP PRODUCTION IN KANSAS, by H. E. Reed, Department of Animal Husbandry, Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, Manhattan. 72 pages, 39 figures. Presents the general sheep situation; Kansas as a sheep state; qualities of a sheepman; types and breeds of sheep, with illustrations; care and management; feeding of western lambs for market.

THE 1938 RANGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM—WESTERN REGION. W. R. Leaflet No. 202. Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C. Tells about the purpose of the program, payments, eligibility for participation, establishment of grazing capacity, how the program works, practices and conditions of payment, and administration.

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